FERRET RIGHTS: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

modern FERRET™

THE FERRET LIFESTYLE MAGAZINE

ISSUE# 12

For ferret owners. By ferret owners.™

- Bath Time Secrets
- Ferrets in Japan

$4.95
$6.95 CAN

One great issue!
Two great collectable covers!

FREE FERRET POSTCARDS INSIDE!

0 74470 88032 5 06>

It's a bird! It's a plane! It's a UPC!

FERRETUDE?

When your ferret cops an attitude, or as we like to say, "Ferretude," chances are he's not too thrilled with the ferret products you offer! Stay on the furry friend's good side with Eight In One's exceptional line of ferret-approved food and care products.

From our Ultra-Blend Diet and Ferretbites Gourmet treats, to our Ferretone and Ferretvite supplements or Vitasol multivitamin...Eight In One's Ph.D. Animal Nutritionists have designed a complete diet to help you meet a ferret's every nutritional need. Because keeping him happy means keeping him healthy.

And don't let a dull coat and an "ugh" odor dampen the ferret's demeanor. Keep his "Ferretude" in check with Eight In One's professionally formulated and tested Ferretsheen line of shampoos and sprays. Their gentle cleansers and odor-tackling enzymes help maintain a clean, glossy coat and an agreeable aroma.

If all of the above still isn't enough to beat back the "ferretude," try the new Ultra-Blend Fish, Beef and Chicken dinners which provide exceptional palatability and variety. Another way to stay on his good side is to add Ultra-Blend's new Fruit and Crunch Treat. He'll love the exciting combination of nutritious fruits and crunchy morsels.

Why not ask for Eight In One's exceptional ferret products at your local pet store? They're attitude adjustments for even the most fickle ferret.

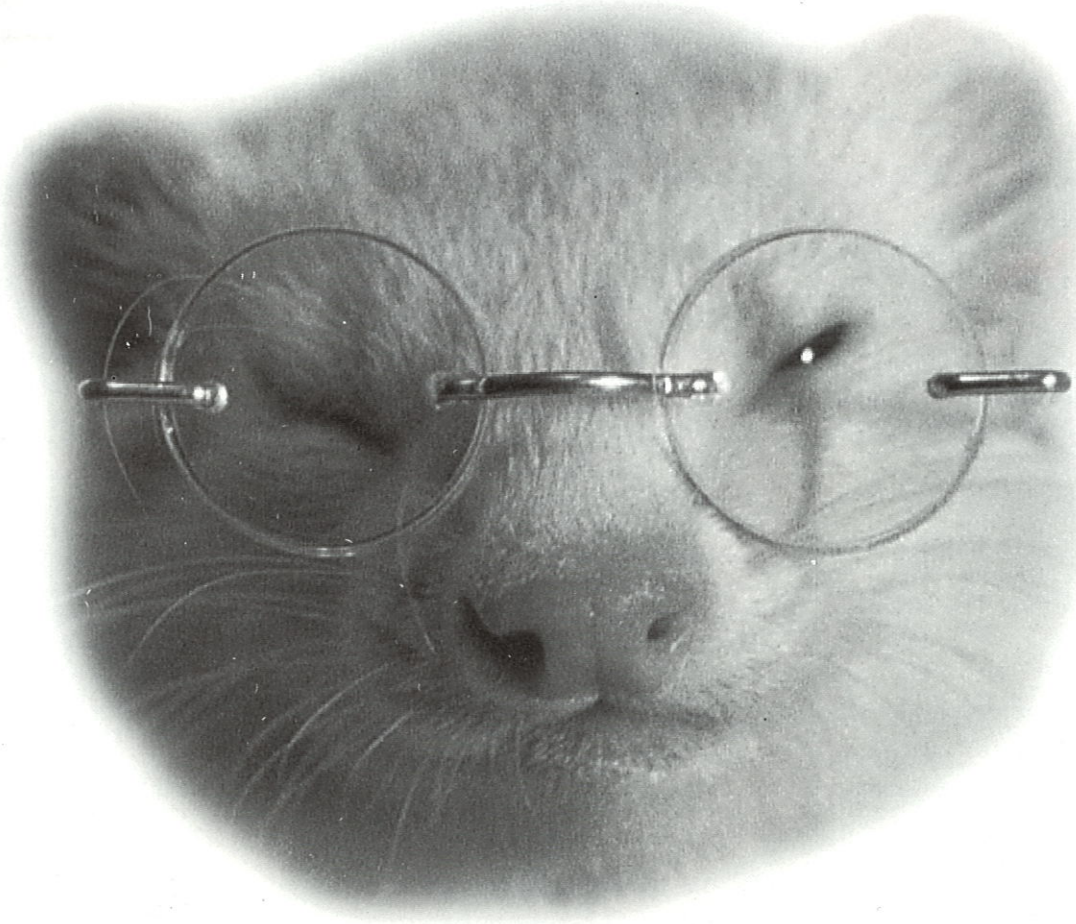
NEW STUFF!

FERRET APPROVED

8 in 1 Pro®

Eight In One Pet Products, Inc.
2100 Pacific Street, Hauppauge, NY 11788 • Tel: 516-232-1200 • Fax 516-232-1206

Marshmallow Explains:



Ferrets are the one pet to have when you're having more than one!™

™ and ©1997 Modern Ferret Magazine. All rights reserved.

Hey kids! Marshmallow is now on a T-shirt! See page 59!

Two different collectable covers this issue! See page 16!

Minding Your Own Business™

Mary and Marshmallow

The Modern Staff:

Mary Shefferman - Editor-in-Chief
Eric Shefferman - Designer
- being fuzzy -
Sabrina
Ralph
Marshmallow
Knuks
Trixie
Bosco da Gama
Rest in peace... Barnaby
- also helping -
Dr. Bruce Williams - Medical Editor
Ted Schiffman - Photography Editor

Modern Ferret, The Ferret Lifestyle Magazine, Frank 'n' Fritter, Wally Weasel, Ferretted Fairy-Tails, Minding Your Own Business, Doctor to Doctor, The Doctor Is In, Wide World of Ferrets, For ferret owners. By ferret owners., The Ferret Directory, The Ferret Trading Post, Good Ferretkeeping and Pink Noses are trademarks of Crunchy Concepts Inc. Other trademarks referenced herein are used in an editorial fashion only to the benefit of the owner, no infringement is intended.

DISCLAIMER. All opinions expressed in *Modern Ferret*™ are just that — opinions. For all important matters, *Modern Ferret* suggests that you consult your own doctors, lawyers, veterinarians, astrologers, family, specialists, etc. for their opinions. Then form your own opinions. It works out for the best. *Modern Ferret* strives for accuracy, but we're only human — or at most, weasels. :-)

Advertisments for companies, products, and live animals are accepted in good faith. *Modern Ferret* assumes all advertisers are on the up-and-up and we cannot accept responsibility for the claims or actions of any advertiser. As any Brady Bunch fan knows, caveat emptor (let the buyer beware).

All offers/contests are void where prohibited, taxed, or otherwise frowned upon by the powers that be.

Front Cover photos by Eric Shefferman
Newsstand: Knuks with pumpkin
Subscriber: Bathing Punkee Lee courtesy of Nina Trischitta and John Freer (shampoo used was Sheppard & Greene Tearless Ferret Shampoo)

I'm amazed at the amount and kinds of letters we receive. There's only two of us, and I'm the one who opens the mail. Even if I don't respond to letters, I read every one of them. Some are sad stories about ferrets who were somehow hurt; the writer wants us to let everyone know about some danger (rubber toys, recliners). Others are happy stories like that of a ferret lost, then found.

I've read letters from people who didn't know they needed to vaccinate against canine distemper. Just the other day a woman sent me the story of how a baby ferret brought distemper into her home. Before the situation was in hand, she lost three ferrets to the disease. She wanted me to let everyone know how important it is to vaccinate. So I'm doing that now: VACCINATE YOUR FERRET AGAINST CANINE DISTEMPER! This disease is always fatal; and it can be prevented. No excuses, just do it.

We've received letters of encouragement from readers who've been with us from the very start. People who are concerned about us burning ourselves out (the ferrets help keep us fresh). People who love to read the magazine and feel like they know us. You do, really. Eric and I do our best to put ourselves into the pages of the magazine. I do edit out the swearing (like when we write about Kodo or proudly ignorant politicians) and I try to keep everything fairly level-headed (you can't print everything you hear). But other than that, this is us here. It's ferret owner to ferret owner.

I've learned a lot from the people who've taken the time to write to us. That's what *Modern Ferret* is about, really. From the beginning, we've encouraged people to get involved — this is your magazine. Our editorial is dictated by the needs and interests of ferret owners (you and us), not a corporate policy. Although we seek to sell the magazine (and, yes, make a living off it), we don't put profits ahead of ferrets — because they're our pets, too. Did I say "pets"? I meant "furry children". Referring to ferrets as children sounds a bit outlandish to people who don't know ferrets. But their innocence and natural curiosity make them very much like human children. It's not that we don't know the difference between a child and a pet; it's just that we feel "pet" doesn't quite describe what our ferrets are to us.

Anyway, I want to thank everyone who sends us letters and e-mail. Your letters (even the little notes on your renewal notices!) are often the high point in our sometimes frustrating days. A magazine depends on its readers to survive; so it follows that we depend on you. But it isn't just the money. We also depend on your kind words, your shared experiences, and even your tears. You patience and understanding have been a blessing to us. I just want to let you know we appreciate it — all eight of us (that includes the ferrets).

— Mary

These numbers are for BUSINESS USE ONLY!

There is simply not enough time for individual advice/consultations over the phone. We cannot take orders by phone.

Phone: (516) 799-1364
FAX: (516) 797-4021
Internet: modferret@aol.com
ferrets@modernferret.com

Modern Ferret Vol. 2 No. 6 1997 (ISSN 1080-6784) is published bimonthly by Crunchy Concepts Inc., PO Box 338, Massapequa Park, N.Y. 11762 USA.

The entire contents of ***Modern Ferret*** are copyright ©1997 by Crunchy Concepts Inc. (except as individually noted) and may not be reproduced in any manner, either in whole or in part, without written permission. ***Modern Ferret*** is a trademark of Crunchy Concepts Inc. and Modern Ferret Magazine is a division of Crunchy Concepts Inc. All rights are reserved. The subscription price is $24.95 for one year in the US shipped via third class bulk mail. The subscription price is $34.95 for one year in the US shipped via first class mail in a sealed plain wrapper. The subscription price is $34.95 USD for Canadian subscriptions. All other countries please inquire.

POSTMASTER: send address changes to ***Modern Ferret***, PO Box 338, Massapequa Park, N.Y. 11762.

Printed in USA

ATTENTION SUBSCRIBERS!

- IF YOU HAVE MOVED:

Please notify us promptly of any address changes by mailing us your new address. Otherwise we don't know where you are and can't mail your issues to you. Thanks for your cooperation!

- ABOUT YOUR LABEL:

The little number next to the "EXP:" is the number of the last issue of your subscription. This way you can tell when you're getting near the last issue of your subscription (horror!). The best way to ensure that you never miss an issue of *Modern Ferret* is to make sure that you renew your subscription in a timely manner.

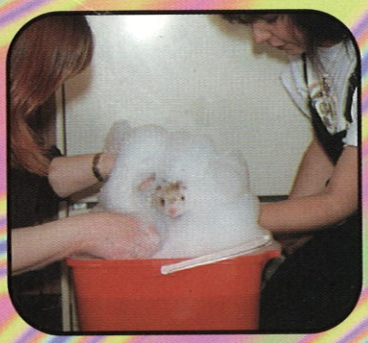
Modern Ferret™

Vol. 2 No. 6

For ferret owners. By ferret owners.™

Contents:

That old bath magic!
See page 44!



How do we take these photos?
See page 24!

Ferrets in Japan!
See page 38!

FADDLE!

FIDDLE!

FEATURES:

7 Ferret Rights: This Issue's Theme
17 Which States Provide a Quarantine Period for Ferrets?
18 Rabies Vaccine Information
21 Ferrets as Muse... (poems)
24 Ferret Photography (how we do it)
26 The Importance of Caging Your Ferret
32 The Caper (smuggling ferrets into California)
44 Bath Time!
48 Berret's Brother (story)

DEPARTMENTS:

2 Minding Your Own Business™
3 Your Wacky Table of Contents! (You are here.)
4 Pink Noses™ Photo Contest Winners!
8 The Ferret Directory™/Advertiser Index
10 Reader Mail — Box 338!
11 Reader Questions/Reader Answers
12 The Latest Word
20 Sabrina Says
22 Funny Ferret Tricks Contest Winners
25 Marshmallow Explains It All
27 Contests! Contests! Contests!
36 The Doctor Is In™ — Seasonal Weight Gain/Loss
38 Wide World of Ferrets™ — Ferrets In Japan
42 The Latest Word
43 Special Advertising Section
54 Ferret Events Calendar
55 Ralph's Reviews
56 Ferretted Fairy-Tail™
60 Reader Art page!/Mission Statement

Pink Noses™

Jasper (dog) & Copper (ferret)
by Bob and Tina Kelly
of Laurel MD

Campin' out with Dominick
by Shannon Roberts of Titusville FL

Bailey says, "Just do it!"
by Ken Bellows of Charlotte NC

Samantha helps mom read the
Ferret Mailing List
by Jennifer

Bandit & Soco — Stowaways!
by Jamie Burke of Amesbury MA

Ghost says, "I swear the treasure was buried HERE!"
by Ken Bellows of Charlotte NC

Jennifer holding Samantha

Zoe has a pink nose!
by Mike and Caree Schmidlkofer
of Island Lake IL

Ziggy on his 1st
trip home
by Kimberly Klein
and Greg Hock
of Lynbrook NY

Angel says, "Was this the Pink Noses
or Dirty Noses contest?"
by Janine L.

Tootsie says, "Yeah, well you
ain't looking so hot yourself!"
by Edie Francoeur of
Milford CT

Megan (age 5) with her two
best friends Sammy & Suzie
by Bruce Plaisier of Farmington Hills MI

Pink Noses™
is sponsored by
Four Paws
Products Ltd.

See contest
details on pg. 27

Four Paws®
Products Ltd.

Marshall Ferret Products.....
Quality, Value And Fun!

When it comes to providing you with high-quality ferret supplies at a great value, nobody does it better than Marshall Pet Products. From the best quality ferret food to specially designed harnesses, t-shirts, sweaters and much more, Marshall Pet Products knows how to outfit your ferret in style. Marshall Ferret Products are available at pet stores nationwide.

Caring For Ferrets Since 1939

MARSHALL
PET PRODUCTS INC.

"Quality Ferrets and Ferret Supplies."

Call 1-800-292-3424 for more information or
send e-mail to ferrets@marshallpet.com • Web site: www.marshallpet.com

FREE MODERN FERRETS POSTCARDS!

FREE *MODERN FERRET*™ POSTCARDS!

Season's Greetings

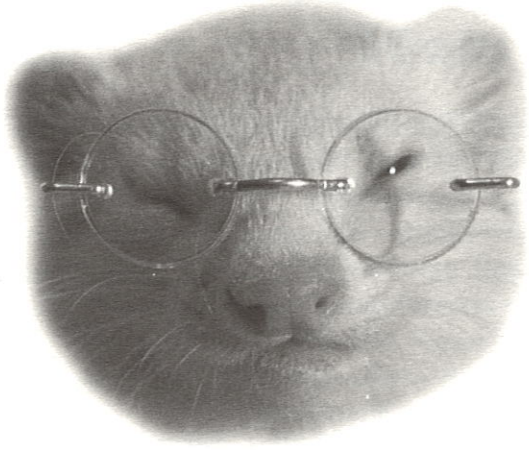
from all the ferrets!

Season's Greetings

from all the ferrets!

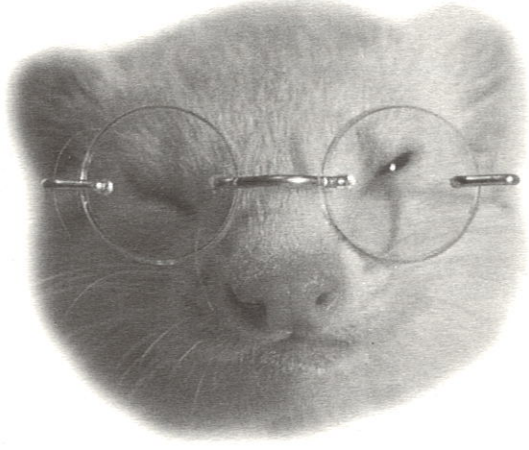
FREE *MODERN FERRET*™ POSTCARDS!

Marshmallow Explains:



Ferrets are the one pet to have when you're having more than one!™

Marshmallow Explains:



Ferrets are the one pet to have when you're having more than one!™

Postcard from Issue #12 *Modern Ferret*™ Magazine.
™ and ©1997 Modern Ferret Magazine. All rights reserved.

Please affix postage here ☺

Postcard from Issue #12 *Modern Ferret*™ Magazine.
™ and ©1997 Modern Ferret Magazine. All rights reserved.

Please affix postage here ☺

Postcard from Issue #12 *Modern Ferret*™ Magazine.
™ and ©1997 Modern Ferret Magazine. All rights reserved.

Please affix postage here ☺

Postcard from Issue #12 *Modern Ferret*™ Magazine.
™ and ©1997 Modern Ferret Magazine. All rights reserved.

Please affix postage here ☺

FREE *MODERN FERRET*™ POSTCARDS!

FREE *MODERN FERRET*™ POSTCARDS!

Ferret Rights: This Issue's Theme

ALL ANIMALS ARE EQUAL
BUT SOME ANIMALS ARE MORE EQUAL THAN OTHERS
— George Orwell, Animal Farm, 1946

To many, the quote from George Orwell's *Animal Farm* is apropos of the treatment of ferrets as compared with dogs, cats, horses, and other animals. It isn't only what we hear people say: "ferrets smell" or "ferrets bite," but it is that these misconceptions and how people react to these misconceptions permeate our health departments, our state legislatures, and our humane societies. Ferrets are governed and judged by a double standard: When a dog bites someone, society considers it to be the owner's fault for not training or keeping tabs on the animal. Or it's the victim's fault for approaching a strange dog. When a ferret bites someone, society considers it to be the ferret's fault and it should be killed because it's a threat to public health. Double standard. Why? Is it because ferrets are lesser pets than dogs? The ferret's intelligence is estimated to be about the same as the dog's intelligence. Dogs may have been domesticated longer than ferrets, but they're exponentially more capable of surviving on their own "in the wild." Feral dogs are a problem nearly everywhere; feral ferrets do not exist. (Those feral "ferrets" in New Zealand are hybrids; they could not establish domestic ferret populations in the wild until they mixed in polecats.) So it can't be that ferrets are a menace to the environment or society at large.

So why is it that dogs get more respect? I believe it is because we ferret owners, as a group, have not been loud enough or cohesive enough: we pose no threat because "these ferret people don't like those ferret people." If we can't stand together, we have no hope of bringing legislation in all states in line with reality.

Do you know what would happen if your ferret bit someone? Why not find out? Call your local animal control office, health department, and ask your veterinarian. Get involved: your ferret may be next. What will you tell him as they take him away? You didn't have time to write a letter? You didn't have five dollars to donate to the rabies shedding study? You couldn't be bothered working toward a common goal with people you disagree with? Maybe you'll tell him he wasn't worth the effort.

Ferret owners must take responsibility for getting legislation and policies changed in their own backyards. It has been done. In New Hampshire, for example, a law was enacted that provides for ferrets to be treated like cats and dogs. Same goes for Maryland. When Massachusetts legalized ferrets last year, they made sure there was a provision for quarantining ferrets that bite. Changes — progress — can be made. If you don't know who to call or where to begin, how about trying the national organizations listed in the Ferret Directory on page 8 of this issue? Why not call the people in your state who are listed in the Ferret Directory? Why not call the people whose shows are listed in the events calendar (page 54)? What about the authors of the articles in the magazine? How about talking to your veterinarian? The manager at a good pet store in your area? Someone at the local shelter might know of a ferret group in your area.

Don't crawl under a rock. It won't go away. It won't change on its own. These are our ferrets, if we don't do it, who will?

And if you get discouraged, take a lesson in persistence from your ferrets.

BIG APPLE FERRETS

Presents:

FERRET EDUCATION DAY AND MARKETPLACE
LONG ISLAND, NEW YORK
OCTOBER 25, 1997
10am TO 5pm

Meet Mary and Eric from Modern FERRET and their ferrets!

Show up early and stay all day!

THE BIGGEST FERRET EVENT ON LONG ISLAND!
At the Firemen's Memorial Park Pavilion in Lindenhurst
Shelters • How-To Seminars • Veterinarians • Cages • Novelties • Crafts
Q & A Sessions • Training Tips • Books • Info for New Owners
Ferret Supplies • T-Shirts • Grooming Tips • Health Care Info
Fun Ferret Events (your ferret is welcome!*)
See Ferret Colors You've Never Seen Before!
Show up early and stay all day to learn all you can!
Vendors will include:
Eight in One Pet Products, Little Paw Publishing, WarmFuzzy Ferret Rescue, TNT Ferret Rescue, *Modern Ferret*, Dancing Light Studios, Ferret Friends Forever, Friends of Ferrets, Ferret Gallery, and so much more!

*All ferrets brought to the event should be up-to-date on their canine distemper and rabies vaccinations. Ferret owners should have a current NYS ferret license. There is always the risk of exposure to infectious diseases when bringing your ferret to social gatherings. It is recommended that you allow minimal exposure to the other pets at the event. Big Apple Ferrets and the sponsors of the event will not be responsible for any sickness or injury to any spectator, vendor, or ferret, or any damage to equipment or personal property. Any incident related to the ferrets are the owner's responsibility. Big Apple Ferrets reserves the right to refuse entry or expel any individual, vendor, or animal.

Sponsored by Eight in One Pet Products and Modern Ferret Magazine

Directions:

Lindenhurst Firemen's Memorial Pavilion

Interstate 495 (LIE) to exit 49S (Rte 110 South) to Rte 109E. At 2nd traffic light on 109 turn right on to Wellwood Avenue (South). 4/10 mile past Sunrise Hwy (Rte 27), turn left on to Hartford St. Building & Parking Lot are 1 block down on left at stop sign.

- or -

Southern State Pky to exit 35S (Wellwood Ave). Pass over Sunrise Hwy (Rte 27). 4/10 mile after Sunrise Hwy, turn left on to Hartford St. Building & Parking lot are 1 block down on left at stop sign.

$3 for adults
$1 for children (12 & under)

For more info call:
(212) 388-8652

The Ferret Directory™

Dear Readers:

We cannot handle all your calls. PLEASE use the resources you see on these pages for your ferret care questions.

Remember, there are only two of us (people that is — all six ferrets REFUSE to answer the phone when they are napping). We cannot handle all your questions and cannot spend all of our time on the phone. This magazine takes a lot of time to produce, and we're doing it all by ourselves — from the photos to the writing to the layouts to all the business details.

Many of the questions that you have are basic questions which are covered in Mary's book (see page 58) or any other good book on ferret care.

We recommend you contact the resources you see listed here — all of our efforts are being directed towards growing and strengthening the magazine.

- Mary and Eric & the Slinky Six

National & International Organizations

American Ferret Association, Inc. (AFA)
PO Box 8056
McLean VA 22106-8056
1-888-FERRET-1 (toll free)
Goals: Promote, Protect & Provide for the domestic ferret.
Source of ferret related information from the country's leading ferret experts.
Reference library for ferret related data.
Veterinarian referrals.
Shelter/Adoption Rescue referrals.
Breeder referrals.
Provide educational seminars and demonstrations.
Sanction Championship ferret shows nationwide.
Developed and Maintain professional ferret show system including Standards & Titles.
See events calendar for AFA events.

STAR* FERRETS
Pamela Troutman Grant
PO Box 1714
Springfield VA 22151-0714
STARFerret@aol.com
http://ferretworld.com
FREE listing of your state's ferret clubs, shelters, vets, & resources for self-addressed stamped long (#10) envelope. Quarterly newsletter $12.00/yr. Shelter and ferret business starter package $3.00. Helpful hint documents available by e-mail or for a SASE: adrenal and cancer info, carpet protection, ECE information, ferret events schedule, finding a lost ferret, flea information, food chart for ferrets, grooming guide, introducing a new ferret, litterbox training, nip training, vaccination schedule, vomiting

For advertising information ONLY contact: (516) 799-1364 Mailbox 3

Advertising Index - Issue #12

36	Accupath
14	Animal Connection
52	Animals Alive
7	Big Apple Ferrets
53	Discount Master Animal Care
C2	Eight In One Pet Products Inc.
19	Expo USA
35	Expo USA
32	Ferret Calendar, The
16	Ferret Fun Factory, The
20	Ferret Madness
51	FerretWare
C4	Four Paws Products Ltd.
42	Kinsey Advertising
34	Kritter Kages
21	L'Avian Pet Products
46	Little Paw Publishing
6	Marshall Pet Products, Inc.
40	Parrots of the World
25	Path Valley Ferret Farm
29	Performance Foods Inc.
15	San Andell Jewelry Designs
12	Something Productions
13	Stationery Ferret, The

SUPPORT THE ADVERTISERS THAT SUPPORT MODERN FERRET!

Advertising information for The Ferret Directory™

For **Clubs**, **Breeders**, and **Shelters & Rescues** advertising in The Ferret Directory™:

A **Basic Listing** includes:
- Name of club, breeder, or shelter
- Contact person
- Address
- Phone number
- E-mail address

Note: If you do not want your address or phone number published, please let us know. We recommend that you do publish your city and state so ferret owners will know if you are nearby. Please let US know your address and number so we can send you a copy of the issue containing your ad or contact you.

Pricing for Basic Listings:

Clubs: **$30** per issue
Breeders: **$30** per issue
Shelters/Rescues: **$20** per issue
Additional words are available at **$1** per word.

Payment is due with the advertising copy.
Pre-pay for 5 issues and the 6th issue is free.
Take a display ad also and receive a free "See our ad on page XX" in your listing.

Send advertising to:
Modern Ferret • PO Box 338
Massapequa Park NY 11762-0338

The Ferret Directory™

Clubs

California
LOS Northern CA
Suni Parker
PO Box 443
Ferndale CA 95536
(707) 725-3703
CALOS@aol.com

New York
Big Apple Ferrets
PO Box 411
Bellmore NY 11710
(212) 388-8652

New York Ferret's Rights Advocacy
David J Guthartz
94 Jeffery Lane
Oceanside NY 11572
(516) 536-6615

Texas
Ferret Lovers' Club of Texas
Erika Matulich, President
PO Box 286
Bedford, TX 76095-0286
(817) 498-1470
http://www.unicorn.us.com/ferret/
DFW-Ferret@global.org

Virginia
Loudoun Area Ferret Fanciers, Inc. (LAFF)
Dina Callow, President
PO Box 5441
Herndon VA 20172
(540) 364-4811
Largest active ferret club in Northern Virginia, memberships nationwide. Quarterly newsletter, *LAFF Lines*. Sponsors high quality, well attended championship ferret shows twice yearly (see events calendar). Semi-monthly meetings, annual Fun Match, picnics & educational seminars/ demos. $20 annual membership (LAFF event and product discounts).

Breeders

Virginia
Just a Business of Ferrets Ferretry
Vickie L. McKimmey
42111 Demory Terrace
PO Box 2371
Leesburg VA 20177
(703) 777-2112 eve & weekend (24 hour help line)
FAX (703) 777-3247
jbferret@mindspring.com
Private breeder, ferrets will not be shipped. Excellent temperaments with strong conformations. Championship lines, over ten "Best in Shows." English bloodlines available. Blaze, Champagne, DEW & Mitts in many colors.

Shelters & Rescues

Florida
Ferrets in Paradise Rescue & Adoption
Karla Franck CVT
PO Box 522863
Marathon Shores FL
33052-2863
(305) 289-7378

Illinois
F.A.I.R. Ferret Shelter
Mary Van Dahm, Director
Westchester IL 60154
(708) 681-3181

New Hampshire
Ferret Wise Rescue & Rehabilitation Shelter
Alicia or Dino Drakiotes
PO Box 561
Marlborough NH 03455-0561
(603) 876-4975
ferretwise@top.monad.net
Quality adoptions to qualified homes. Foster placements on occasion.

New York
Ferret Friends Forever
Linda and Russ Markert
Lake Grove NY 11755
(516) 737-5059

T 'N' T Ferret Rescue & Shelter
Tami & Tommy
Bellmore NY 11710
(516) 826-4065

Ohio
Ferret Sense
Linda Harrah
PO Box 61
Buckeye Lake OH 43008
(614) 929-3392

Ferrets Unlimited
Jean
4116 Bucyrus Ave
Cleveland OH 44109
(216) 749-3885
Member of STAR. Adoptions, rescues, info.

Pennsylvania
WarmFuzzy Ferret Rescue
Shirley Hertzog
Maidencreek Rd
RR 2 Box 2118
Fleetwood PA 19522
(610) 926-9087
warmfuzzy@aol.com
Designers of the Velcro harness and ferret tote.

Shelters & Rescues (cont.)

Virginia
Just a Business of Ferrets Shelter
Vickie L. McKimmey
42111 Demory Terrace
PO Box 2371
Leesburg VA 20177
(703) 777-2112 eve & weekend (24 hour help line)
FAX (703) 777-3247
jbferret@mindspring.com
No-kill ferret shelter. Rescue, placement & referrals. Adoptees available, Fervac-D CDV current. Ferrets will not be shipped. Information available, send long SASE.

FOR A SPECIAL MULTI-SUBSCRIPTION SAVINGS OFFER, SEE PAGE 28!

BOX 338

Letters to *Modern Ferret*

Oddly enough, our address is: Modern Ferret · PO Box 338 · Massapequa Park, NY 11762-0338

Dear Eric, Mary & Modern Ferrets:

I got my first ferret in 1997.

The only ferret book I could find at the time recommended feeding raw meat and wearing leather gloves to protect from biting. I thought my new pet was only a short step from his wild cousins.

I moved back home to Michigan and when ferrets became legal here I thought about getting another one. I scrapped the original ferret book and started getting more up to date info. Thanks to your magazine and several good books on the market (to which I am adding yours), I now have two ferrets who eat ferret food, and while they may drown me with kisses, would never bite me.

Thank you so much.

Denise (mom) Rizzo & Muldoon

Mary, Eric & Fuzzy Staff,

We all love your "Mag."

I have enjoyed every issue and look forward to many more.

I was wondering... "Marshmallow Explains ..." is my favorite feature article and I find his picture irresistible. Did you have any plans to put him on t-shirts/sweatshirts? I would LOVE to buy one and I'm sure I'm not alone. Aside from the possible financial gain, the picture alone shows what we already know — our little ones are very intelligent. That picture is just so cute!

I'm sure with all the daily details of doing *Modern Ferret* one more thing on your plate may be too much. Just a thought. (please, please, please...)

Thank you!

Sharon Pease, New York

Sharon: OK, OK! We did it! See page 59 for more details. — Mary.

The Houston Chronicle notes that the Michigan Health Department killed the ferret Kodo due to suspected rabies. Is it your understanding that rabies has never been transmitted from a ferret to humans? This is very disturbing. (Documentation enclosed). I have written to Texas A&M.

I have the ferret Ming. She often goes with me to poetry readings. I won't take her anywhere now.

Nancy Bertoncelj, Texas

Dear Mary and Eric:

I live in Mobile, Alabama, with two wonderful ferrets and recently came across a news article in the Saturday paper that absolutely horrified me. I enclosed the clipping because I think that this concerns all loving ferret parents everywhere. It concerns us all because it tells about an innocent ferret being destroyed even after the owner displayed its rabies vaccination record. It takes place in Detroit. It scares me because what is to stop that from happening to my babies? Needless to say, I was horrified, upset, and dismayed. When will people stop viewing ferrets as a disease carrier or as a wild, vicious animal? If it is possible, I ask that you run this article in your magazine and caution ferret owners about the risk of letting strangers around their ferrets because this tragedy should never have occurred. My heart goes out to the owner of the little ferret that was put to death unjustly. I hope that nothing like this will ever occur again, but I fear it will until the world is educated about ferrets. I wish to commend you both on the excellent way in which you are trying to make this a ferret-friendly world, and I will continue to be a devoted reader of your wonderful magazine.

Thanks,

Jennifer Berardino

Fuzzies: Rikki and Snoopy

Note: News of Kodo's execution to be tested for rabies (negative, it turns out) has upset a lot of Modern Ferret readers. Several people asked if there was any point in vaccinating against rabies if the health department can just kill the ferret anyway. Though vaccination may seem futile in these circumstances, you must remember that the principal reason to vaccinate against any disease is to protect our pets from the disease. In addition, in some states — oddly enough, Michigan is among them — rabies vaccinations are required by law. Also, if your ferret bites someone and you show that person that your ferret's rabies vaccinations are up-to-date, the person might not want to bother reporting the incident, particularly if it's minor. Remember, the man who was injured by Kodo's tooth (Kodo's owner swears Kodo did not bite the man) did not report the incident and did not want the ferret killed. The Animal Control Officer overheard the man mention the incident to his wife. In most circumstances, an Animal Control Officer is not right there to eavesdrop. Finally, if your ferret accidentally gets out of your house (it has happened to many conscientious ferret owners) and he is not vaccinated, he could come across an animal with rabies — wouldn't you want to protect him? There is a USDA-approved vaccine to protect against rabies. I believe you should use it.

For more on Kodo and what is going on as a result of his death, see this issue's The Latest Word column and the editorial on page 7.

—Mary

READER QUESTIONS READER ANSWERS

Dear Reader Questions/Reader Answers,

My ferret keeps digging in his food bowl and kicking the food all over his cage. Any suggestions?

—Sample Question

Dear Sample Question:

I've heard many suggestions for this common problem. The most basic is to locate a food bowl with some sort of lip that curves inward to help prevent food from being able to be kicked out.

Another alternative is to obtain the kind of food bowl which attaches to the wall of the cage. Raise the food bowl slightly so that your ferret has to stand up a bit in order to get the food. The bowl should be just high enough to make it difficult for the ferret to dig, while still enabling the ferret to get food easily by standing up. Once the ferret is accustomed to not digging in the bowl, try gradually lowering it.

If your ferret is a serious committed digger, you might try placing the food bowl in an enclosure similar to the one described on page 34 of *Modern Ferret* issue #11.

With some time to experiment, you may discover why your ferret is digging in the first place. Your ferret may just require more time out of the cage exercising. Our new ferret, Trixie, has become a serious food bowl digger. Recently, I was hand-feeding her and noticed that although we feed a mixture of several foods to all the ferrets, she was only interested in one brand. (We feed several different foods because we travel all over the country with our ferrets promoting the magazine, and want them be as un-finicky as possible in case we need to get more food on the road and can't find some specific brand.) I placed a special bowl in the cage for her and filled it with ONLY the brand she likes. I showed her the bowl and now she eats out of it exclusively. Lacking the need to spread the food all over so she can find the pieces she desires, she rarely makes the kind of mess she used to (I suspect she does it sometimes now just for fun).

By the way, hand-feeding your ferrets can be a lot of fun. Even their usual food can seem like a treat when you give it to them by hand!

—Eric Shefferman

Dear Modern Ferret Fans,

Over the years we have found that many of you have similar common questions. We have also found that many of you have developed ingenious solutions to problem ferret behaviors. Many of you have lots of years of ferret-owning experience and a wealth of knowledge about ferrets to share.

In an effort to encourage the exchange of this information, we are starting a Reader Questions/Reader Answers column. You are invited to send in YOUR questions about ferrets. We'll try to run as many as we can. Then your fellow readers are encouraged to send in their discoveries and solutions. We'll try to run the best advice we can, as well.

By encouraging everyone to share, we hope to help everyone increase their enjoyment of ferrets. Please read the sample Q/A on the left to see what we mean.

This is the magazine "For ferret owners. By ferret owners.™", so please feel free to share. Your questions and answers will help everyone.

Note: Letters may be edited for grammar, space limitations, etc.

Write to:

READER QUESTIONS READER ANSWERS
C/O
Modern Ferret
PO Box 338
Massapequa Park NY 11762-0338

The Latest on California Legalization Efforts

The California ferret legalization bill (AB 363) was passed by the State Assembly on June 6, 1997, by a 59-7 vote.* The bill then passed the State Senate Natural Resources and Wildlife Committee by a vote of 7 to 1 on July 8, 1997. The next vote will be in the Senate Appropriations Committee, then on to the California Senate for vote, and then to the governor's desk. At the time of this writing, ferrets are not yet legal in California.

The bill came out of the Natural Resources and Wildlife Committee looking quite different from when it went in. But Jeanne Carley of Californians for Ferret Legalization (CFL) says that the bill, "is still viable because of the changes, and is a definite step forward for ferret legalization in California."

Prior to the Committee hearing, legalization opponents (National Audubon Society, Sierra Club California, California League of Conservation Voters, Planning and Conservation League, California Waterfowl Association and California Farm Bureau) formed a consortium and, under a single letterhead, sent a demand for amendments to AB 363 that require a risk-assessment study prior to legalization and the inclusion of mandatory licensing for ferrets if or when they are legalized.

The request had a strong impact on the Committee, and there was a danger that the bill would not survive if it was not amended. A compromise was reached, and AB 363 has been amended to grandfather in all ferrets already in California as long as they are spayed or neutered, vaccinated against rabies, and licensed. If the bill passes all hurdles, it will decriminalize the several hundred thousand ferret owners in California, and their ferrets would be legalized as of January 1, 1998.

As part of the compromise, the licensing fee will fund a two-year study to commence on October 12, 1997 (the last day the governor has to sign the bill). Ferret owners would have until June 30, 1998, to license their ferrets, thereby legalizing them as long as they have complied with the spay/neuter and vaccination requirements. Although it was not addressed in committee, CFL believes that kits will be exempt from the vaccination requirement until they are old enough to be safely vaccinated against rabies.

Due to CFL concerns regarding the ability of the Department of Fish and Game and the University of California–Davis to conduct an objective and impartial study on ferrets, an outside source will be appointed by the Fish and Game Commission after a public hearing on the matter. CFL also insisted that no ferrets be released into the wild as part of this study, as it would be a violation of state humane laws to do so and most people in the humane fields would adamantly oppose such action. Committee Chair, Senator Hayden, as well as several others on the Committee, agreed that no ferrets should be released into the wild.

At the end of the two-year study, which concludes on October 12, 2000, the data will be evaluated. At that point, a bill which legalizes ferrets for sale and ownership similar to other domesticated pets would be introduced. CFL is certain that any objective study will confirm that ferrets have no impact on wildlife in California.

If the bill passes as amended,

Stonecast Begging Ferret
Pierced or Clip-on
$22.00 + $3.00 S&H
16" Necklace
$16.00 + $3.00 S&H

Send your order to:
Something Productions
Dept. MF12
PO Box 582
Hopewell Jct. NY 12533

❑ 201

❑ 202

❑ 101

❑ 102

❑ 203

❑ 204

❑ 103

❑ 104

5" by 7" color mini prints

Christmas Special
Set of 4 prints
$15.00 + $3.00 S&H

www.somethingproductions.com
Voicemail or FAX (888) 852-4424
For orders outside US, write for info.

SEND #10 SASE FOR FREE CATALOG!
Please allow 4 to 6 weeks for delivery.

Something Productions presents

NEW PRODUCTS ALL THE TIME!

Things From England

WHOLESALE INQUIRIES

***What's Your Color?* poster (seen on page 59) and prints above are available for wholesale. MAJOR discounts on quantity purchases.**

VISA MasterCard

For faster service, order directly from our web site!

Californians and their ferrets will be able to travel safely to the veterinarian without fear of fine or confiscation. They will enjoy the legal ownership of each of their ferrets for its lifetime and will have taken one more step towards eventually bringing California into line with the rest of the country on this issue.

At press time (mid-July), AB 363 was on its way to the Senate Appropriations Committee and then to the Senate floor. It was expected to be heard soon after we went to press. For the latest update and to find out what you can do to help get the bill passed, contact Jeanne Carley at Californians for Ferret Legalization, 410 Mountain Home Road, Woodside, CA 94062; (415) 851-3750; e-mail ferretnews@aol.com; website at http://www.ferretnews.org.

This article is based on information from CFL.

**Editor's Note: Despite the passage of AB 363 through the California State Assembly, there were dissenters. Among them was Assemblyman Richard Floyd (D-Wilmington), who was quoted: "This is a rotten, dirty little rat and we ought to kill this bill and every ferret we can get our hands on." Yes, this is what Californians are up against.*

Swedish Family's Ferret Confiscated in San Francisco

On June 12, 1997, Konstantina and Michael Yidman of Sweden landed at San Francisco International Airport so Michael can share his engineering expertise with Photonic Systems, Inc., of Mountain View, CA. The Yidman family also includes son Anders, age 16, daughter Athanasia, age 18, and Romeo, age 3.

Romeo is neither son nor daughter, but he's still a member of the family. He's Athanasia's pet ferret, given to her for her fifteenth birthday. Romeo is the only pet the Yidman family has because Konstantina's asthma prevents them from having a dog or cat.

Before leaving Sweden, the Yidman family checked and re-checked with the US embassy in Stockholm and Air France, and were told in both cases that it would be no problem to bring their ferret to California.

Upon arrival in San Francisco, customs agents seized Romeo and took him from the family. Now the Yidmans anxiously fret over his fate, and his loss has left them stunned and heartbroken — welcome to California, the only state on the continent to ban ferrets.

Though the State Assembly just passed a bill (AB 363 — Goldsmith) to legalize the domesticated ferret by an overwhelming 64–8 vote, it has to pass the Senate and the Governor before becoming law. In the meantime, people like the Yidmans continue to suffer the consequences of this unjustified and meritless prohibition. How many more people have to get hurt before this ridiculous law is changed?

Note: At press time, the ferret was in the custody of a California Domestic Ferret Association (CDFA) shelter. They are trying to figure out how to resolve the situation.

For more information contact: Jeanne Carley, Californians for Ferret Legalization: 415-851-3750. (This story was reported in a press release by Californians for Ferret Legalization.)

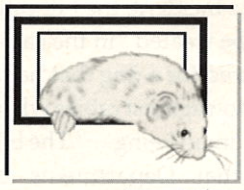
VISA MasterCard

The Stationery Ferret

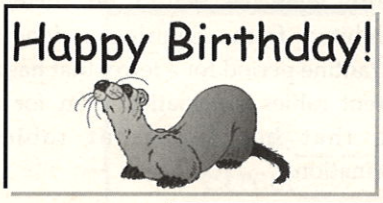
VISA MasterCard

PO Box 20634, DEPT M • EL SOBRANTE, CA 94820-0634

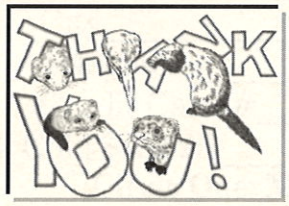
FERRET GREETING CARDS



SET 1



SET 2



FREE BROCHURE AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

AN ASSORTMENT OF EVERYDAY NOTE CARDS BY CALIFORNIA ARTIST, LINDA GAYLORD. KNOWN IN THE SF BAY AREA FOR HER SKETCHES AND PORTRAITS, LINDA HAS TURNED HER ATTENTION TO OUR FAVORITE SUBJECT, **FERRETS.** THESE 4 X 6 INCH **COLOR** CARDS ARE BEING OFFERED IN SPECIALLY PRICED SETS FOR THE READERS OF MODERN FERRET.

Each set of 12 cards is $10, plus $2 S&H.

Sets 1, 2, 3 feature 2 designs, 6 cards each.

Set 4 includes all 6 designs, 2 cards of each.

CUSTOM CARDS AVAILABLE (SEE BOX AT RIGHT)

CA RES. ADD 8.5% TAX

ORDER BY MAIL OR PHONE

THE STATIONERY FERRET
PO Box 20634, DEPT M
EL SOBRANTE, CA 94820-0634

(800) 582-4738

SET 3

It's only September, but it's not too early to order your **custom Christmas cards** from The Stationery Ferret! A truly unique way to say "Season's Greetings!" Each set of 20 cards will feature YOUR special ferrets, beautifully drawn from your favorite photo. Printed in color, with matching envelopes and address labels. **$25**

EMAIL: CAT13DOG5@AOL.COM

Kodo Ordered Tested for Rabies

Despite valiant efforts to spare the life of Kodo, the Michigan ferret who was on death row because a man banged his hand against the ferret's tooth, he was killed and tested for rabies by the state on June 12, 1997, at 1 pm. Kodo did not have rabies. He was properly vaccinated as required by Michigan law. One of the state's arguments was that the USDA-approved rabies vaccine is not 100% effective in ferrets; however, no vaccine is 100% effective in any species. Kodo's owner, Robert Jacobs, has vowed not to relent until Michigan — and all states that have kill-and-test policies — stops routinely killing and testing ferrets involved in bite incidents regardless of their vaccination status or risk factors.

Kodo's story brought to the forefront the problem of the treatment of ferrets that are involved in bite incidents and pointed up the apparent anti-ferret sentiment in Michigan health departments. Ferret owners from all over the world became involved with a massive media campaign to save Kodo's life. Kodo has become everyone's ferret.

Kodo's story appeared in Issue #10 of *Modern Ferret*.

ANIMAL CONNECTION

WELCOME TO THE WONDERFUL WORLD OF FERRETS

WE SPECIALIZE IN FERRETS
FERRET SUPPLIES
FERRET KNOWLEDGE
WE HAVE BABY FERRETS FOR ADOPTION
WE WILL SHIP

Summerlin Square Shopping Center
17105 San Carlos Blvd., E-1
Ft. Myers, FL 33931

Marylou
941-466-8900

Bill, Resolution Call for Quarantine Period in Michigan

The state-mandated killing and rabies testing of Kodo, the Michigan ferret whose owner fought the kill-and-test order all the way to the state supreme court, has stirred a great many people to action. Among those taking an active part in remedying the situation is Michigan State Senator Christopher Dingell (D-Trenton). On June 19, 1997, Sen. Dingell entered a resolution (Senate Resolution 72), which has been referred to the Committee on Government Operations (Sen. Bill Bullard, Jr., Chair), and a bill (SB 616), which has been referred to the Committee on Agriculture and Forestry (Sen. Walter North, Chair). At this writing, the measures are waiting for the senate to reconvene in the fall. At that time, the committee chairs will schedule discussions on the legislation.

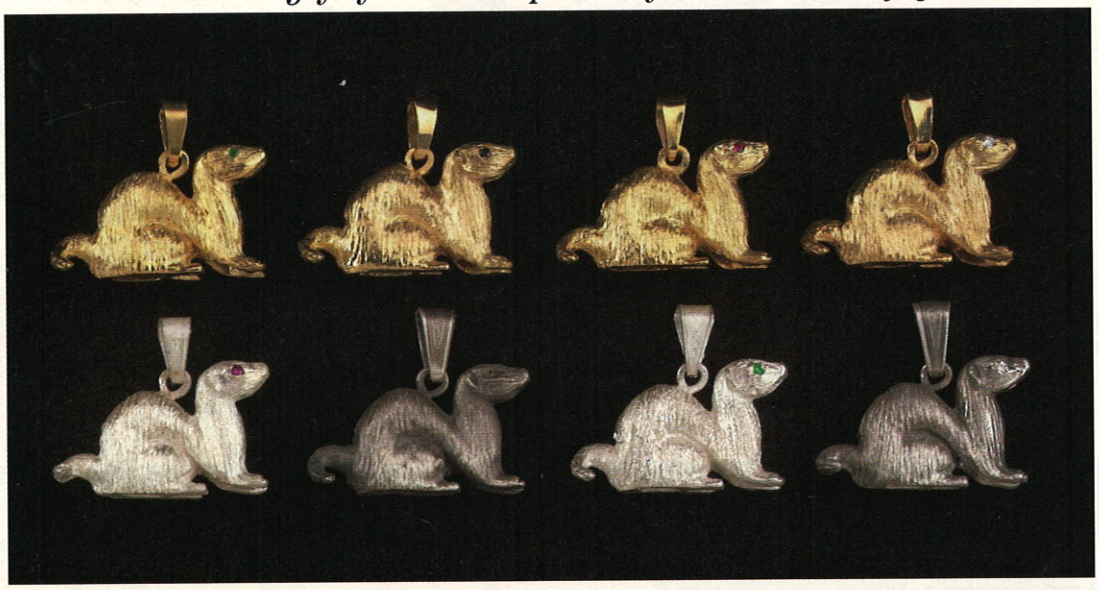
The legislation attempts to balance the need to protect public health with the desire to limit the number of pet ferrets being destroyed and tested for rabies in the state. Sen. Dingell stated: "I have introduced this legislation to get the Michigan Departments of Agriculture and Community Health to enlighten their views on ferret quarantine policies. The state needs to treat ferrets and their many owners with fairness and sympathy and to realize their place next to canine and feline pets in many Michigan families." In addition, the resolution asks that the Departments of Agriculture and Community Health "make recommendations similar to those of the State of Massachusetts." Massachusetts law requires that all ferrets be vaccinated against rabies and provides for a 10-day quarantine period for ferrets that bite humans. Senate Resolution 72 is co-sponsored by Senators Young, Stallings, Conroy, and Gougeon.

SB 616 would require the state to apply the same rabies quarantine procedures to ferrets as it applies to dogs. Ferrets would be required to be vaccinated with a rabies vaccine approved by the US Department of Agriculture (USDA), and owners would have to be able to produce proof of vaccination. If a ferret is involved in a bite incident and it is not vaccinated, the bill calls for it to be treated in accordance with the recommendations of the current Centers for Disease Control (CDC) Compendium of Rabies Control. By tying the legislation to the *current* Compendium, if and when the CDC's recommendations change, the law will "automatically" change as well. The current CDC Compendium states: "Other biting animals [e.g., ferrets] that might have exposed a person to rabies should be reported immediately to the local health department. Prior vaccination of an animal may not preclude the necessity for euthanasia and testing if the period of virus shedding is unknown for that species. Management of animals other than dogs and cats depends on the species, the circumstances of the bite, and the epidemiology of rabies in the area." In essence, a decision should be made on a case-by-case basis after weighing all risk factors.

If a properly vaccinated ferret is involved in a bite incident, the bill calls for the ferret to be treated "in the same manner as required for a dog that has a current vaccination against rabies when the dog bites a human being...." The bill further states that Departments of Community Health or a city, county, or district health department shall not require that a ferret be killed and tested for rabies unless the same is required of a dog that has a current rabies vaccination when it bites a human. Health agencies would be further prohibited from requiring a longer quarantine period for a ferret that has a current rabies vaccination than for a dog that has a current rabies vaccination.

FERRET LOVER'S ALERT!!!
Fine Custom Crafted Jewelry

What better gift for that special ferret lover of yours?



SHOWN AT ACTUAL SIZE - VERY LIMITED QUANTITIES

FERRET PENDANT in 14k GOLD or STERLING SILVER

Custom designed Ferret Pendant made of 14k Gold or Sterling Silver.
Amazing detail. Eyes can be set with ruby, emerald, sapphire, onyx or diamonds!!!
(any birthstone can be set - call for price)

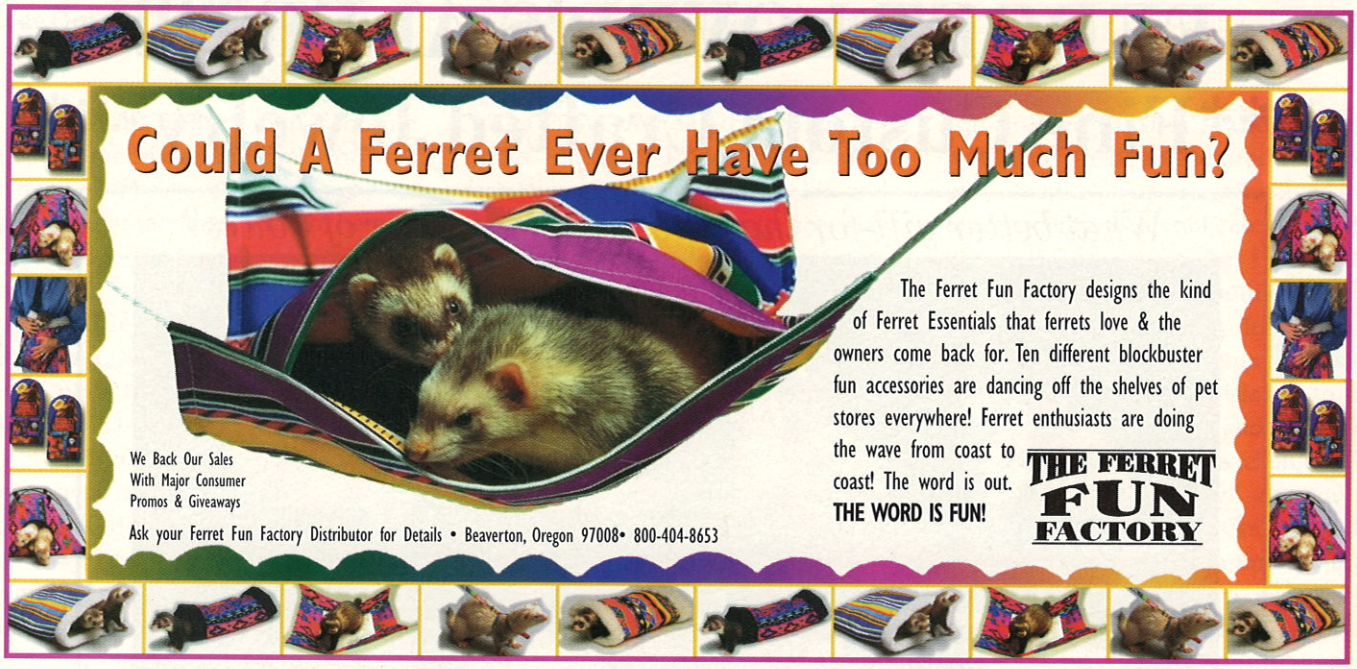
14k Gold Ferret (11 grams)	$399.95
Sterling Silver Ferret	$149.95

ADD genuine precious stone eyes for:
Ruby, Emerald, Sapphire $60, Onyx $25, 2 pt. Diamond $100
Silver comes in shiny or antique finish - please specify

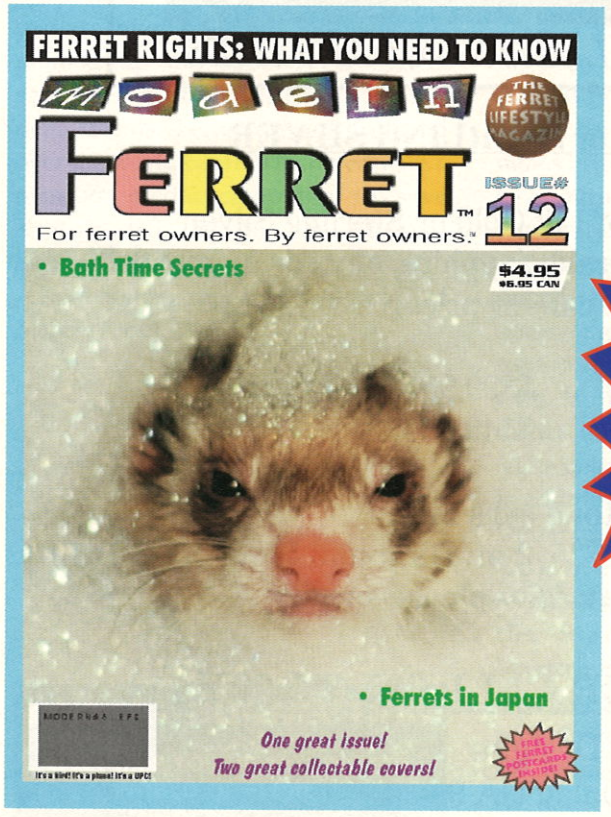
PENDANT ORDER FORM - OR CALL 805 496-6642

San Andell Jewelry Designs
P.O. Box 4525, Thousand Oaks, CA 91359

Name_____
Street_____
City_____ State_____ ZIP_____
Telephone_____ FAX_____
Credit Card #_____ Expires____/____
14k Gold $399.95____ or Sterling Silver $149.95____ Color Eyes____ $_____
Circle One: MasterCard, Visa, Discover & American Express
Federal Express Shipping & Ins. $14.95 California orders will add 7.25% Sales Tax


Could A Ferret Ever Have Too Much Fun?
We Back Our Sales
With Major Consumer
Promos & Giveaways
Ask your Ferret Fun Factory Distributor for Details • Beaverton, Oregon 97008• 800-404-8653
The Ferret Fun Factory designs the kind of Ferret Essentials that ferrets love & the owners come back for. Ten different blockbuster fun accessories are dancing off the shelves of pet stores everywhere! Ferret enthusiasts are doing the wave from coast to coast! The word is out.
THE WORD IS FUN!
THE FERRET FUN FACTORY

HEY! THIS ISSUE HAS TWO DIFFERENT COVERS!



ONE DOZEN ISSUES OF *MODERN FERRET*

*** Subscriber Edition ***

*** Newsstand Edition ***

We wanted to celebrate achieving our twelfth issue by doing something special. We had a great photo of Knuks (our first cover ferret) with a pumpkin which we took last Halloween. But we also took a great photo to go with Holly Cyr's bathing article. What's a ferret magazine to do? Obviously do both!

PS – If you are a collector & have to have both covers, see page 59!

Which States Provide A Quarantine Period For Ferrets?

With the recent focus on Michigan's policy regarding the management of ferrets that are involved in bite incidents, several people on the Internet have begun collecting data regarding the policies, laws, and/or recommendations of each state with regard to this issue. Some states recommend killing and testing for rabies any ferret that bites a human. Other states provide for a quarantine period for ferrets involved in a bite incident. In many instances, the decision is left up to the local health department or animal control, and can differ from what the state would recommend. For example, regardless of what New York State recommends, Nassau County, where *Modern Ferret* is based, will determine the circumstances and consider the vaccination status on a case-by-case basis. As long as our ferrets are vaccinated, they're safe. But in the next county over, you might have a problem.

The chart below is not comprehensive; it is a sampling of the various types of policies/regulations that are applied to ferrets involved in bite or scratch incidents throughout the United States. We will include a more complete chart in a future issue of *Modern Ferret*. It is important to remember that state policy is not necessarily applied on county or city levels — or in a consistent manner (although universal application is usually the objective). Use the information below as a starting point to find out what your area does in practice.

The information in the chart was collected by Carla Smith of Rio Grande Domestic Ferret Club. Another fact-gathering project, The International Ferret Rights Information Center (IFRIC), is being coordinated by the Pennsylvania Ferret Rescue Association and by Kymberlie Becker, the association's Director. A web site will be developed which will list specific information about ferrets all over the world. The information will include quarantine information, legal status, permit/license information, and other pertinent information.

If you do not see your state represented here, consider calling your state department of health and finding out what your state's policy is. Think about sharing your information with Carla or with Kymberlie (or both).

State	Does the State Recognize IMRAB-3?	Does the State Require Rabies Vaccination?	Does the State Provide for Quarantine?	What Are the Conditions of Quarantine?
Indiana	N/A	N/A	Kill & test	N/A
Kansas	No	Optional	No quarantine; may require a signed affidavit to prevent testing	Case by case; ferrets may be unregulated
Maine	Yes	N/A	N/A	Case by case; ferrets may be unregulated
Maryland	Yes	Required	Quarantine	At home allowed if certain conditions met
Massachusetts	Has not ruled	Required	Quarantine (10 days)	At home allowed
Michigan	No	Required	Risk analysis, in accordance with current CDC guidelines	N/A
Minnesota	No	Optional	Kill & test	N/A
Missouri	Yes	Optional	Quarantine possible; case by case	N/A
Nebraska	Yes	Required	Quarantine; depends on the county	Case by case; ferrets may be unregulated
New Hampshire	Yes	Required	Quarantine (45 days)	At home allowed if certain conditions met; must be vaccinated
New Mexico	Yes	Optional	Quarantine (30 days)	At home allowed if certain conditions met
North Carolina	No	Optional	Kill & test	Case by case; ferrets may be unregulated
Pennsylvania	No	Optional	Kill & test	N/A
South Carolina	Yes	Optional	Quarantine	Case by case; ferrets may be unregulated
Tennessee	N/A	N/A	Kill & test	N/A
Texas	Yes	Optional	Quarantine (30 days)	At home allowed if certain conditions met; case by case; ferrets may be unregulated; not stray
Virginia	Yes	Optional	Depends on the county	Case by case; ferrets may be unregulated; depends on the county
Wisconsin	Yes	Optional	Kill & test	N/A

N/A = No answer.

Information collected from various sources by Carla Smith of Rio Grande Domestic Ferret Club, PO Box 26928, El Paso, TX 79926. E-mail: whynotfert@aol.com. Thank you, Carla, for your help. Also collecting information to be posted on the IFRIC web site is Kymberlie Becker of the PA Ferret Rescue Association, PO Box 45, Gilbertsville PA 19525. E-mail: ferretlady@sprynet.com.

Ferret Rabies Shedding Study

One of the most commonly cited reasons for following a kill and test policy for a ferret that is involved in a bite incident is this: "We do not know the shedding time for rabies in ferrets." What this refers to is the period between the moment the animal is infected with the rabies virus and the time the virus begins to appear (shed) in the saliva of the animal. Once the rabies virus is present in saliva, the animal can transmit the virus via a bite. When quarantine periods are established for a particular species, the length of the quarantine is based on how long the rabies virus takes to reach the saliva in that species and the amount of time before symptoms appear.

Although studies have been done in Europe which indicate that the ferret dies before it begins to shed the rabies virus in saliva (meaning that it cannot transmit the virus before it dies), The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) will not accept those studies as proof of the rabies shedding period in ferrets. Part of the CDC's reasoning is that US strains of rabies differ from European strains. Currently, a study is being conducted at Kansas State University in accordance with the CDC to determine the rabies shedding time in ferrets. During the course of the research, several strains of rabies that are common in the United States are being studied. Some strains have already been tested, but others remain to be completed. The CDC will postpone changing its recommendations regarding the treatment of ferrets involved in bite incidents until the study is completed.

The rabies shedding study is being funded by the Morris Animal Foundation. Morris Animal Foundation is a 501c(3) tax-exempt organization which funds animal health studies for many species. Your donation is tax-exempt to the full extent of the law. If you would like to contribute to the Morris Animal Foundation and would like your donation to be earmarked for Ferret Health Studies, including the rabies shedding study, indicate on your check or accompanying letter that you would like your money to go towards Ferret Health Studies.

Send checks to:

Morris Animal Foundation
Ferret Health Studies
45 Inverness Dr. E
Englewood CO 80112-5480

Rabies Vaccine Information

Health departments often present several reasons why they believe it is necessary to kill a ferret that has been involved in a bite incident and test him for rabies. While some of the reasons are based at least partially on fact (e.g., that the shedding time for rabies in ferrets is unknown), two reasons that are often cited are simply not true.

Readers should be aware that there **is** a rabies vaccine that is licensed for use in ferrets and is approved by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). If a health department representative says that there is no approved vaccine, he/she she should be told to contact the USDA.

The other false statement that has been made by some health departments is that the vaccine is not effective. According to Rhone-Merieux (Athens, GA), IMRAB-3 is proven to be 88.9% effective in preventing rabies in ferrets.

It is important to note that no vaccine is 100% effective in any species. The USDA sets up requirements that a vaccine must meet in order qualify for approval. IMRAB-3 has met the criteria set up by the USDA in order for it to be approved and proven effective in ferrets. This is the same type of testing that is done for vaccines that are approved for use in dogs and cats and that health departments accept as effective.

The testing of IMRAB-3 was completed in 1988, and the vaccine was approved in 1990. Part of the testing procedure includes not only vaccinating the animals with the vaccine, but "challenging" the vaccine by exposing the vaccinated animals to the rabies virus. During approval testing, IMRAB-3 protected 88.9% of the vaccinated animals when they were exposed to the virus. The challenge was proven to be effective because 94.7% of control subjects (animals not vaccinated but exposed to the virus) contracted the virus and died.

Thus, health departments should be informed that there is a licensed, approved rabies vaccine for ferrets and that it has been proven to be effective when administered yearly.

Readers are urged to vaccinate their ferrets against rabies regardless of what their state's policy is regarding ferrets that are involved in bite incidents. In many cases a person who is bitten by a ferret will be reassured to know that the animal has been vaccinated.

Attn: Subscribers

Remember if you move to please MAIL your address change to:

Modern Ferret attn: Address Changes · PO Box 338 · Massapequa Park NY 11762-0338

Finally, The Exotic Pets & Products You Want Most - One Weekend Only

MANY NEW EXHIBITS!

Meet Mary and Eric from Modern FERRET™ and their ferrets!

Fort Washington, Pennsylvania

Fort Washington Expo Center

November 29-30, 1997 - 9AM to 5PM

A wide variety of exotic pets to buy. Some you can't even find in pet shops! All in one place too! It's like going to an entire mall devoted just to pets and pet products. Exactly how cool is this? There are 50,000 square feet of pets, pets and more pets at the Exotics & Family Pet Showcase.

There are products galore. From big cages to leashes, pet papooses, pet toys, gifts, tee shirts, and magazines, books, figurines, and pet beds. (Can't list 'em all here - sorry.)

That's not all. You'll love the free lecture program which runs all day both days.

Bring the kids, too, 'cause there will be exhibits of tigers, eagles, and alligators for them to see.

Refreshments are available at the concessions. You can make a day of it. Shop 'til you drop, and get an eyeful of the most unusual animals you've seen since your last visit to the zoo. You and the kids are both "gonna" love it!

Ferrets • Exotic Birds
Snakes • Iguanas
Frogs • Other Reptiles
Greyhound Adoptions
And More (No Room To List All)

$1.00 OFF
ONE ADULT ADMISSION
Modern FERRET. **Duplicate This Ad** Modern FERRET.

EXOTICS & FAMILY PET SHOWCASE

November 29-30, 1997
9AM to 5PM
Fort Washington, Pennsylvania
Fort Washington Expo Center

Admission: $7 Adults $2 Kids 6-10 Little Kids Free

for friendly information (spectators & new exhibitors)

EXPO USA
372 Meadow Wood Lane • Souderton PA 18964
Phone: (215) 721-7199
24 hour FAX (215) 721-7979

The ONLY Original Ferret Snuggly™

Ferret Madness is the only maker of quality, innovative ferret products, including the original Ferret Snuggly™. All products are made by hand by ferret lovers, including:

- **Ferret Snuggly™** The original ferret carrying pouch (pictured)
- **Ferret Sleep Sak™** A cozy ferret snuggling bag
- **Ferret Snuggly Sleep Hammock** With tissue-box type opening
- **Carrier Hammock** To fit most small cages or carriers

Ferret Madness

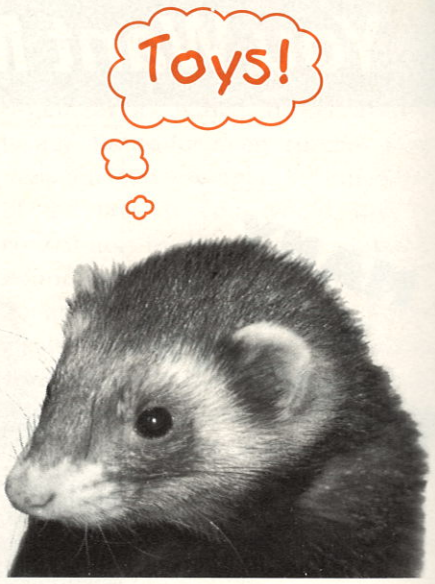
Call NOW!

VISA & MasterCard accepted!

(401) 294-6309

181 Stony Lane North Kingstown, RI 02852

Sabrina Says:



Our humans brought us home a couple of neat playthings: miniature laundry baskets (they're also called organizer baskets). Our humans got them at an office supply store, but I think you can get them at other types of stores, too. The baskets come in several different sizes, colors, and shapes. In addition to rectangular ones and round ones, there are even ones shaped like a heart.

These baskets are usually pretty sturdy, though some are made of a harder plastic than others. If you have ferrets that chew on plastic, these might not work for you; or you will need the sturdier variety of basket. Also, don't get the baskets that have larger holes (or slots) for handles; your ferret could get his head stuck!

We ferrets really enjoy playing in the baskets. Ralph especially likes to lie down in them when he gets sleepy — sometimes he even puts some of his toys in the basket with him. Ralph, Marshmallow, and Knuks all like to wrestle with a jingle ball while they're in the basket — that way if the ball gets away from them, they don't have to get up and chase after it.

Not all of us ferrets like to lie down or play in the basket (I prefer hammocks). But almost every one of us likes to climb in and out of them. Sometimes a big ferret (like Bosco) tips over the baskets, creating a little wall, and then we use them as a place to hide things.

Humans can use the baskets, too. When your ferrets are finished playing and have gone to sleep, you can take all their toys from where they belong and put them into the baskets. Sort of like a child's toy box. Then, the next time your ferrets come out to play, they'll have to put all the toys back where they're supposed to be (like under the TV stand). It's OK, we know that a ferret's work is never done.

Like any toy your ferrets play with, you should make sure no one is chewing it. If your ferrets chew the basket, try a harder plastic basket. If they still chew it, you may not be able to use one of these baskets as a toy for your ferrets. Remember that safety always comes first — even if it means we can't have a neat plaything.

Ralph loves to belly-slide into the baskets!

Ferrets as Muse . . .

Carpet Hunter

Another ferret? Another ferret!
I peek 'round the couch at where the Bigfolk
put a box and freed you, in my home.
You see me and run. I scamper in pursuit.
I have the advantage; I know the terrain:
where the socks are buried,
and the sandwich crusts are hidden.
You hit a dead end under the bed,
where I drag off shoes that smell intriguing.
You stop to whirl and chirr at my approach.
We sniff ears and noses. Friend. Hello!

Barbara Johnson-Haddad

Midnight Battle

The blanket mice are swarming,
they've infested the bed.
They move under the covers.
One crept right by my head.
I leap! I pounce! I use my teeth
upon the fearsome foe.
But then my owners wake to scold
and say I bit their toe.

Barbara Johnson-Haddad

An Awakening

Ferret ripples in my quilt,
friends at play
whiskers tickle my nakedness.
Cold noses in dents and crooks
force start the day
before
light fractures night.
Could I but understand the critter chitter
My blessings would be greater still.

Yvonne Spencer

Thank you, Barbara and Yvonne, for sharing your delightful poems.

Because You Want THE BEST

Premium Extruded Ferret Food

Free of chemical preservatives

Chicken is main ingredient

High fat content from poultry

Fortified with vitamins and minerals

Low ash content

L'Avian™ PLUS

Premium Nutrition For Small Animals

For More Information
Call or Write:
L'Avian Pet Products
P.O. Box 359
Stephen, MN 56757
1-800-543-3308

Funny Ferret Tricks

Here are this issue's batch of Funny Ferret Tricks. Does your ferret do something special for a treat? Does he make you laugh? Tell us all about it, and you could win a Ferretude T-shirt from Eight in One Pet Products, not to mention your 15 minutes of fame. See the Contests Page (pg. 27) for more details!

GRAND PRIZE WINNER!

by Betsy Scheil of Missouri
Ferret: Dwayne

Ever since we adopted Dwayne from the ferret shelter, he has always been obsessed with our smelliest garments of clothing. Any time we couldn't find him, we could always go to the dirty underwear laundry basket and find him fast asleep. He also had a special bond with my Dad. Dwayne liked to be close to him. Very close! This picture was taken after Dwayne had woken up from his nap in my Dad's underwear.

Unfortunately, Dwayne was soon diagnosed with insulinoma and died a few months later. We cherished the 19 months of life that he had with us and we will carry with us the undying love he gave us.

Woodstock's Ranch Adventure
by Gina Moreno of Oregon
Ferrets: Snoopy & Woodstock

When Snoopy and Woodstock were kits, I taught them how to give kisses by putting a little Ferretone on my lips and coaxing them into licking it off. After a while of doing this, all I would have to do to get a kiss was bring one of the ferrets up to my face and say, "Give me a kiss." Snoopy was never very big on giving kisses (she rarely does it without the Ferretone). However, Woodstock almost always gives kisses when asked.

One day when we were cow-sitting, my husband and I decided to introduce the ferrets to the calves. Snoopy was a little frightened at the large size of these strange animals. Woodstock was very excited to meet some new furry friends, regardless of their intimidating size (as long as Mom was holding him so he could meet them face to face). Woodstock then proceeded to greet a black calf with a kiss right on the lips, just like Mom had taught him. However, he was not expecting what happened next. Apparently, someone had taught the calf how to kiss, as well. The calf returned Woodstock's kiss with a big, wet kiss of his own, right across Woodstock's face. Poor Woodstock had been slimed! Not quite understanding what had just happened, he began to shake and retreat to hide in Mom's comforting arms.

by Rene Chartier of New Jersey
Ferrets: Homer, Harley, Charlie, & Gunther

My mommy bought ME a rubber purple plastic squeaky-toy. (She supervises playtime with this toy.) Anyway, I love MY purple dragon and so do my brothers! When mommy lets us out to play, I find MY purple dragon and hide it! Well, a few minutes after I secure a good spot for MY purple dragon, along comes my brother Harley and he steals it! He always hides it in the same place, on mommy's window sill. A few minutes after he does that, my brother Charlie steals it form Harley's hiding spot and he carries up to the sixth floor of our high-rise. When he feels nobody is going to take it, he leaves to go play. Then I go and take MY purple dragon and then the whole cycle starts again. My mommy and daddy laugh at us when we play "The Dragon Game."

Oh, yeah ... P.S. My brother, Gunther, is "Too Cool" to play our game. (If I didn't mention his name he might get mad at me!) (In the picture, you can see Gunther not trying to get MY purple dragon!)

WIN!WIN!WIN!WIN!WIN!WIN!

WIN!WIN!WIN!WIN!WIN!

WIN THIS T-SHIRT!

ENTER THE FUNNY FERRET TRICKS CONTEST TODAY!
SEE PAGE 36 FOR DETAILS!

by Julie and Phil Eisermann of Ohio
Ferret: Xena

This is Xena stealing the straw. All she has to hear is the sound of the straw going into the lid and she comes running.

Jessie's Snack Addiction
by Audrey Andrews of New York
Ferret: Jessie

In April 1996 I had suffered a great loss. My ferret Bandit, a sable, had passed away. Wanting to do something in his memory, I decided that Bandit would really like me to adopt a less fortunate ferret and give him a loving home like he had.

So with this in mind, I went on a mission to New Jersey's FuzzTek ferret shelter to meet Jessie. Jessie, I was told, was a very special ferret. Special indeed he is.

Through all the foster care Jessie had in the past, he picked up some real comical habits. One in particular has made my family laugh constantly. You see, Jessie loves to eat snacks. He loves ferret "Bandits," raisins, cliff bars, and banana-raisin ferret treats, to name a few. He will do just about anything for his treats. Jessie developed a routine to accomplish getting his treats. His routine includes three stages.

Stage 1: Consists of standing at my feet in the kitchen and begging.
Stage 2: If this goes unnoticed, Jessie lays on his back looking up with pleading eyes.
Stage 3: With eyes that would melt anyone's heart, he lays his head on my foot.

On a normal day I usually spot him by Stage 1 or 2. One day though I was preoccupied by something in the living room. I can only surmise that I must have ignored all of Jessie's pleas for his treats. Jessie was desperate. What should he do now? He had to think fast.

He climbed up on the back of our love seat, which I was about three feet from, with my back to him. So distracted I didn't even realize he was there. In a flash, like he was Spiderman, he leaped off the love seat, attaching himself to my sweater. It was like he had suction cups for feet.

Startled, I turned to see what happened. There was Jessie trying to climb up to my shoulder.

I knew instantly what his eyes were trying to tell me: "Where are my treats?" I laughed and hugged him, expressing my apologies over and over again. Now content with the solution to his endeavor, he gave me a kiss, took his snack, and merrily went on his way.

SPONSORED BY:
8 in 1

Photographing Ferrets

by Eric

One of the amazing things about the production of *Modern Ferret* is that we use all original photography (not the same photos you see in every ferret book, etc.). We do most of the photography ourselves. We use a Canon Rebel camera and a LOT of film. To provide adequate lighting, we use several 500 Watt photoflood bulbs; these need to be placed far from the ferrets and used with good ventilation because they generate a ton of heat. Then we just take a lot of shots! We recently got a 300 mm lens, which lets us be farther from the ferret (needed for bath photos!).

Sleeping kits are very cute & very easy to photograph. You'll want to take a lot of photos of any baby ferret you get, so you can remember how tiny they were!

Awake kits are not so easy to photograph. This is an outtake from the photo session for the Parrots of the World advertisement. Artsy.

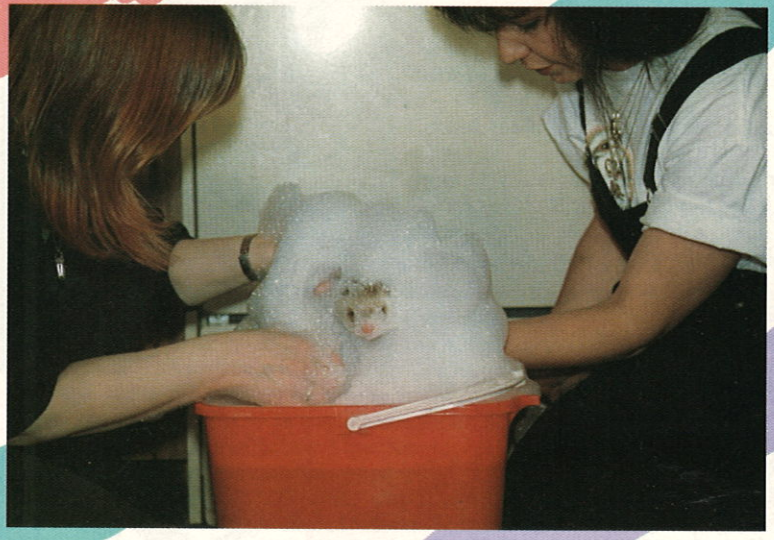
This is the chaos going on to produce the cover of issue #4. That's Uncle Marc — owner of Parrots of the World & great supporter of *Modern Ferret* — along with Mary. Of course, a bunch of kits were there too! We used MANY rolls of film!

Have lots of film handy! We use 400 speed film for anything that isn't going to be greatly enlarged.

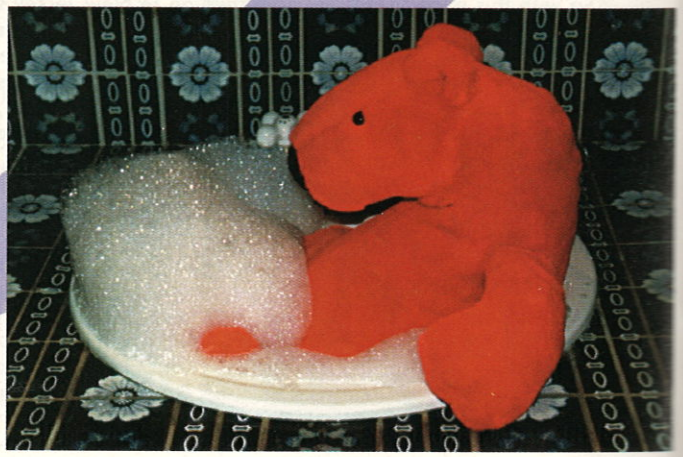
From this issue's centerfold session. The ferret was looking at me, but the rubber duckie was ignoring me!

Did Knuks get bored of trying to look cute? No. Actually, she was trying to drag off the pumpkin!

Always have your camera ready!

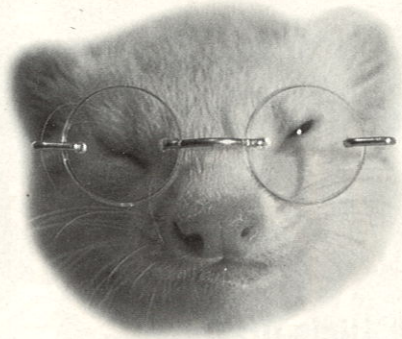


Here Nina helps Mary with this issue's cover photo session (at least one of the covers). Notice that a well-placed out-of-sight hand can really help! I was safely out of splashing range thanks to the 300 mm lens!



When all else fails, your stuffed animals won't let you down! They hardly ever walk off the set!

Marshmallow Explains It All



Don't Be Blue ... It's Fur the Best

Humans have a tendency to get worked up over their ferrets. It's all right; we sort of like the attention. Although the constant ear-checking and poop-inspecting can become a tad tiresome. Whenever we try to look into our humans' ears, we're greeted with shrieks. Forget about letting us anywhere near their litter box. Well, never mind.

One of the things humans often become concerned over are strange markings on our skin. Some of the markings are tattoos from the breeder where we were born. Others aren't markings at all.

Take the shaved ferret, for example. The ferret has been through some sort of surgery and has come out all right. Either the stitches have been taken out or they were the type which dissolve over time. The ferret is feeling full of vim and vigor. Then comes the human's most disturbing observation that the ferret's skin has turned blue — or a purplish blue or a bluish purple. Sometimes the human imagines internal bruising and other horrific post-surgical complications. A frantic phone call to the veterinarian does not always produce a satisfactory explanation.

Don't panic. It's only fur.

That's right. Often, the dark tips of the ferret's new guard hairs cause the skin to take on a bluish tint as they appear just beneath the skin's surface. Given a few more days or so, you will see the peach-fuzz–like growth of new fur. Of course, if your ferret is pale, like I am, you might see a grayish tint to the skin prior to the appearance of new fur growth.

Once the ferret's new fur has grown in, don't be surprised if the color of the newly grown patch of fur is different from that of the rest of the ferret's fur. Ferrets shed twice yearly, and the texture and color of their coats (and masks) can change sometimes dramatically during these seasonal transformations. Thus, it is normal for the next season's fur to grow in to replace the fur that has been shaved off. Humans may find the color variation more pronounced in ferrets whose coat color and markings change a good deal from season to season. Oddly enough, this phenomenon apparently occurs in other species, like dogs and cats. I suspect they're copying us, since ferrets are, by far, much better and more brilliant than any other animal in the universe. Besides, why do you think they call them copyCATS?

Until next time, adieu.

Path Valley Ferret Farm

Hi!
My name is **PeVee Ferret**
I represent
Path Valley Ferret Farm

We are a **PETS** Farm Only!
Our Ferrets are not sold for
Research or Fur

We carry a full line
of ferret products
and ferret food.

Ask your local store
or call us at
1 - 800 - FERRET1

email: pathfarm@cvn.net

The Importance of Caging Your Ferret

by Alicia Drakiotes

The debate rages on: To cage or not to cage? — your domestic ferret(s), that is. Being a "Shelter Mom" and veterinary assistant, I have stronger feelings than some people, perhaps. My unwavering feeling is: when in doubt **cage** your ferret. These are some of the reasons why.

From the perspective of a Shelter Mom, the ferret should be considered the equivalent of a two-year-old toddler. They are always into **everything**! A ferret, be it young or old, lives its life exploring and solving problems: problems such as how to get up here, over there, into this etc. **Never** underestimate the creativity of your ferret companion. While some animals become discouraged and move on to a new task, a ferret applies itself to finding a way to accomplish a task, any task. This means that sooner or later your ferret will prove you haven't ferret-proofed his areas enough. Your ferret will find trouble if you give him enough time. This is one reason — a primary reason — why a ferret should be caged when the caretaker is unable to supervise the ferret's recreational activities.

Ferrets in their exploring mode also get into and under things: rugs, blankets, beds, chairs, anything that resembles a hiding place. Unfortunately, they can lay pretty flat, and if someone walks into an area and the ferret is "hiding" under something such as a rug, blanket, towel or mat, the ferret can easily get stepped on. This type of accident, a crushing accident, is reported to be the most common cause of death or permanent injury (spinal cord injury, rupture of internal organs) known to ferrets. Crushing accidents also occur if the caretaker has reclining furniture and the furry explorer ventures into the furniture for a place to nap. Unknowingly, many owners have seated themselves in the reclining furniture only to find that the ferret has been caught and crushed in the mechanism.

Other accidents can happen when ferrets are out to play — perhaps you have witnessed some of them. A ferret in "exploring" mode finds a purse, or travel bag and starts rifling through it for treasures. Among the treasures are prescription medicines. If a ferret finds a stash of medicines, whether over-the-counter or prescription, and for some reason decides to taste test, this will likely cause grave illness and possibly death.

ferrets are constant mischief-makers!

How about playing, climbing and cavorting with other pets, ferrets or cats? Picture this: one ferret is on the floor and a cat or ferret is above on a shelf or table. A lamp or other object gets knocked over and falls on the ferret below. Another accident which could well cost this ferret the loss of use of limb, or other severe permanent injury.

Or how about the curious ferret who manages to explore the dishwasher, the clothes dryer, or perhaps the washing machine? The well-meaning owner loses track of the ferret — and the ferret gets one heck of a final bath. These are more reasons to:

1. Supervise the ferret at all times, and
2. When unable to supervise your ferret, keep it in a comfortable cage.

Remember, it is an **owner's responsibility** to ensure a safe and happy home for the ferret. Caging is a good thing. It allows a safe environment when no one is able to interact with the ferret or supervise his play. Caging is not necessarily a punishment; that is in the mind of the ferret caretaker. Ferrets sleep 16 or more hours every day; they are just as happy spending those sleeping hours in a cage as in a sock drawer. If you haven't considered a roomy cage for unsupervised times, why not consider it today, before it is too late?

Alicia Drakiotes is a "Shelter Mom" and is a veterinary technician for Ferret Wise Rescue & Rehabilitation Shelter in Marlborough, NH. You can write to her at: Ferret Wise Shelter, PO Box 561, Marlborough, NH 03455, or phone 603-876-4975 (Monday through Friday 9 AM – 5 PM Eastern).

PS. From our own experience here at *Modern Ferret* (we're in the same room with the ferrets all day long), they do sleep a lot and do not mind being caged.

Contests!

Pink Noses™ PHOTO CONTEST

Your Ferret Famous

Do you have a photogenic ferret? Your ferret's photo could be on the next *Modern Ferret* trading card (or here in the magazine)! Here's how:

*All ferrets, regardless of nose color, are eligible.

*Pick out your favorite glossy finish photo(s). No professional photos, please.

*Write the following information for each photo. Your name, address, phone number, and your ferret's name. Please be careful to not damage your photo - we've had problems with ink bleeding through photos or rubbing off onto other photos.

*If there's something special about your ferret you'd like to mention, please do so!

*We regret that due to the sheer volume of photos we receive, we will no longer be able to return photos.

*Any of your photos that are published become eligible to be on trading cards or other *Modern Ferret* productions.

*By entering the contest, you grant permission to *Modern Ferret* to use the photos. Credit to the photographer is, of course, given.

SPONSORED BY:

Four Paws® Products Ltd.

READER ART

ART CONTEST

Rembrandt and Picasso may have fame, but YOU can get something they can't get — a $25 gift certificate to Discount Master! (And some fame in the ferret community.)

Break out the pencils, pens, paint, crayons, whatever! Please send us your original black and white or color pieces of ferret artwork. Any type of artwork is acceptable, as long as it features ferrets.

Contest entry grants *Modern Ferret* publication rights to the artwork. We will, unfortunately, not be able to return art submissions. If you have a special case/problem, please call us.

Please ship your art VERY carefully! Mail can sometimes be kinda' rough.

We will be running the Reader Art section in every issue of *Modern Ferret*, so keep sending in art! We'll run as many pieces as we can and the best submission from each issue will receive a $25 gift certificate from Discount Master Animal Care Catalog.

SPONSORED BY:

DISCOUNT MASTER ANIMAL CARE CATALOG

Send all contest entries to:

Modern Ferret
attn: _____ Contest
PO BOX 338
Massapequa Park NY 11762-0338

If your entry in any of the contests is a winner, we will send you extra copies of the issue you were in once it is in print.

FOR A SPECIAL MODERN FERRET MULTI-SUBSCRIPTION SAVINGS OFFER SEE PAGE 28!

FUNNY FERRET TRICKS

Humor Contest

Ferrets are pretty goofy creatures! Now we'd like to celebrate the ferret's comic nature with a humor contest. What lengths does your ferret go to for a treat? What funny predicaments has your ferret gotten into? You can show us by sending a photo or short story. We'll try to run as many as space permits.

*The top 5 entries received will win a Ferretude T-shirt and the best entry received will also get a $25 value of Eight in One ferret products which includes new ferret canned treats and ferret canned diet.

*Please make sure you provide the following information: Your name, address, phone number, and your ferret's name.

*We regret that due to the sheer volume of entries we receive, we will not be able to return entries.

*By entering the contest, you grant permission to *Modern Ferret* to use your submission in the magazine or related materials. In any usage, credit to the submittor will be given.

SPONSORED BY:

8 in 1 Pet

MODERN FERRET'S CONTESTS ARE SPONSORED BY OUR REGULAR ADVERTISERS - PLEASE SHOW THEM YOUR SUPPORT!

SPECIAL SUBSCRIPTION SAVINGS OFFER

MULTI-SUBSCRIPTION DISCOUNTS BETWEEN NOW AND 12/31/97

SUBSCRIBE AND SAVE!

mail orders to:
Modern Ferret
Attn: Multi Discount Offer
PO Box 338
Massapequa Park NY
11762-0338

- We'd like to have a lot more subscribers, so we're making a special subscription offer from now until 12/31/97. Now would be a great time for you to subscribe or renew (many times!), and get some gift subscriptions for your relatives, friends, veterinarian, etc. Gift recipients will receive a written notice & certificate from us.
- This offer is only good for US subscriptions. Foreign orders see the back inside cover of this issue.
- If you are doing any renewals, please let us know. They can be hard to catch otherwise.
- Plain Wrapper (no ferret markings) subscriptions always require a $10.00 surcharge — there are no discounts on this charge.
- Remember *Modern Ferret* comes out every other month, so there may be a delay before subscriptions begin.

- (optional) In case we have any questions, what is your phone number? _____

- To include with the notice of any gift subscriptions or renewals, what is your name? _____

Your First Subscription or Renewal — **Cost: $19.95**

Name: _____ ___ New Subscription ___ Check if "Plain Wrapper" ($10.00 additional charge)

Address: _____ ___ Renewal for ID#

City,State,ZIP: _____ ID#: _____

Your Second Subscription or Renewal — **Cost: $17.95**

Name: _____ ___ New Subscription ___ Check if "Plain Wrapper" ($10.00 additional charge)

Address: _____ ___ Renewal for ID#

City,State,ZIP: _____ ID#: _____

Your Third Subscription or Renewal — **Cost: $15.95**

Name: _____ ___ New Subscription ___ Check if "Plain Wrapper" ($10.00 additional charge)

Address: _____ ___ Renewal for ID#

City,State,ZIP: _____ ID#: _____

Your Fourth Subscription or Renewal — **Cost: $13.95**

Name: _____ ___ New Subscription ___ Check if "Plain Wrapper" ($10.00 additional charge)

Address: _____ ___ Renewal for ID#

City,State,ZIP: _____ ID#: _____

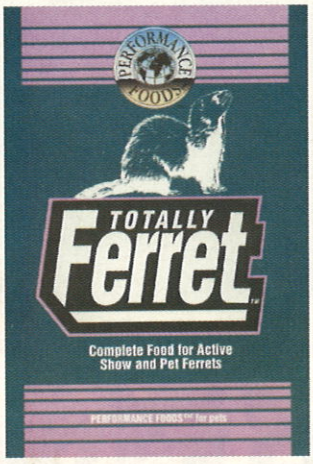
Additional Subscriptions or Renewals are available at the cost of $13.95 (+ $10.00 for "Plain Wrapper")
Please write neatly on a separate piece of paper. Thank you.

The Pet And The Pet Food For The 21st Century

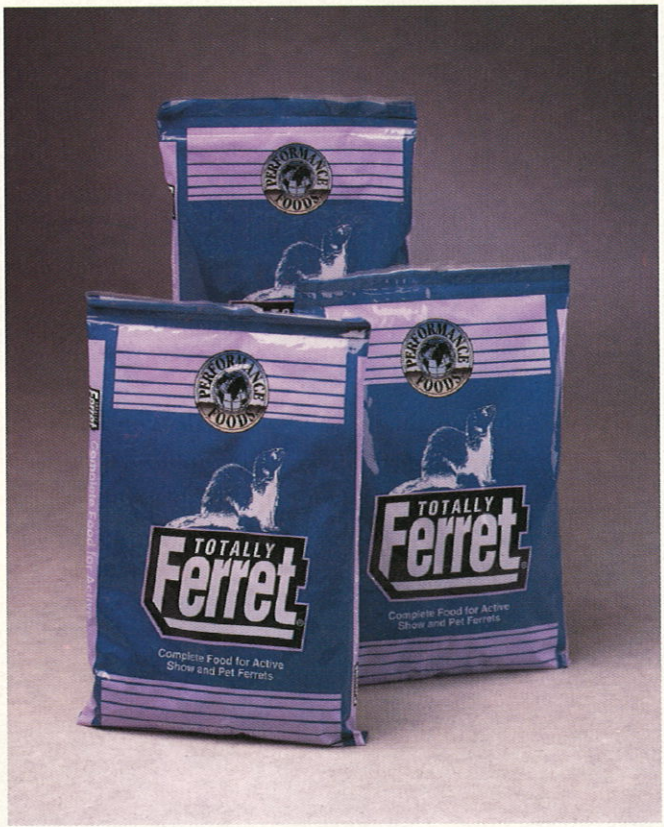
Recent surveys from various industry magazines and organizations indicate the ferret as our third most popular pet! Some reasons are due to the animal's playful and loveable nature. Other indicators are people's changing lifestyles.

Nutrition plays an important role in meeting the needs of this newly discovered pet. Ferrets require a high protein/high fat meat based diet as they are obligate carnivores. *Totally Ferret® was developed, tested and proven to meet those needs.*

Our main protein sources are chicken-by-product meal and whole egg. Chicken fat, poultry fat, fish, and vegetable oils comprise our fats. Our technicians accept only *first quality, fresh ingredients*. Minimum ingredient contact, processing procedures, and packaging practices are steadfastly maintained. This is your insurance that each and every bag you purchase is made with the same quality standards. Each bag has a 100% customer product satisfaction guarantee.



For further information and pricing, please contact our corporate office in Dayton, OH.



Performance Foods, Inc. and *Totally Ferret*®

Two names you can trust!

PERFORMANCE FOODS™

For More Information:
Phone: 937/890-7784
FAX: 937/890-7799

Performance Foods, Inc.
Dayton, OH 45415

“Don’t be worri

“Oh, I ain’t wo

ried, Mr. Allnut."

orried, Miss."

Photo by Eric Shefferman.
Ferrets courtesy of Frank Tramontano and Tom Wachtel.
©1997 *Modern Ferret* Magazine.
You should go rent the movie *The African Queen*.
It's good for you.

The Caper

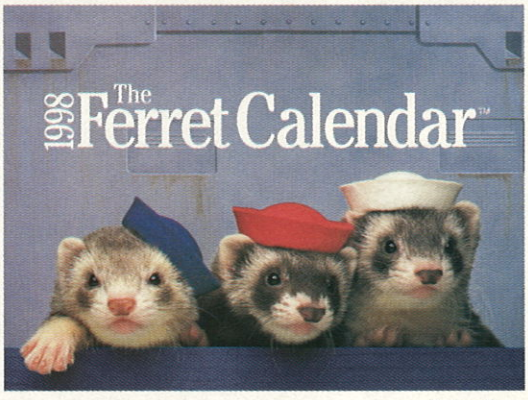
a true story by Meg V.

Monti

Kilo

The Ferret Calendar™

P.O. Box 7161 Redwood City, CA 94063-7161 Tel/Fax (415)851-5775 www.ferretcalendar.com



Calendars

T-Shirts

Greeting Cards

Two summers ago I went to California to spend the summer and fall in the Sierra Nevadas. I went in order to collect data for a research project on amphibians I was doing for a graduate degree at the University of Montana. The conundrum — what to do with my two ferrets, Dillon and Phoenix? I couldn't take them into the mountains with me and I didn't have anyone in Montana who I felt would take good enough care of them. So I called my folks in Berkeley, California, and asked if they would keep the ferrets for the summer. The 'rents had met the ferrets at Christmas time the year before and were luke-warm about them at best. But, in order to help me out, they finally said "OK."

So began the road trip to California with two trucks and horse trailers, three horses, two dogs, two people (my boyfriend Tim and I), and two ferrets riding shotgun in their carry-cage in my truck. We dropped the ferrets off in Berkeley at my folks' house and headed for the mountains.

I didn't talk to the 'rents for a few weeks, and when I did my mom told me that I would be lucky if I got back to Montana with my ferrets. It turns out that she wanted to keep them! My folks had fallen head over heels for the little carpet-sharks!

Later that summer we discovered that Phoenix, a foundling from the Missoula Humane Society (history, age, etc. unknown), had insulinoma. Surgery was not an option as she was too weak to survive the surgery. We decided to treat her medically instead. Since I was still in the mountains, the job of giving the daily doses of antibiotics, prednisone, and vitamins, as well as the vet re-checks, all fell to my mom. Although it broke her heart to watch Phoenix slowly dying, she loved the opportunity to make those last weeks as comfortable as possible for her little "grandferret."

One weekend when I happened to be home, Phoenix went into a seizure and died in my arms. I think my mom took it harder than I did.

Then came time for me to head back up to Montana. Mom wanted to keep Dillon, but of course she understood that I loved and needed him too. So I took him with me, the whole drive back thinking about how to get Mom her own ferrets (not the easiest thing in the world when one lives in California).

When I got back home, I went to a pet store in town and sure enough, they had four 6-week-old kits for sale; two sables (my mom's favorite color) and two silvers. I called Mom and casually asked how she would like two ferrets of her own. "Of course," she said, "but how?" After numerous phone calls and e-mails back and forth, I bought all four ferrets (they weren't being well taken care of at the pet store, and the manager offered me four for the price of three; what else was I supposed to do?) and brought them home. That Friday evening Mom flew in from California.

When we got to my place, she immediately chose the two sables, a boy and a girl. Then we began figuring out the best way to smuggle the ferrets on the two planes to California — the small commuter plane to Salt Lake City and then the larger jet to Oakland. I had spent the week trying out different carry-on bags to see which would give the ferrets the most air but which would also hide their movement. We finally settled on a hard-backed carry-on with wheels for the journey from terminal to plane and a gym bag with large air spaces for the actual plane ride. Mom had a large coat with her that she planned to drape over her lap during the flight to hide the kits' movements.

As for getting them through security, we knew the ferrets couldn't go through the x-ray machine with the baggage and would somehow have to be hand-carried through the metal-detector instead. We decided we would put each kit in a net stocking-washing bag, then I would loop the string handles over each shoulder, put on my heavy winter jacket, and simply walk though the metal detector, a ferret hanging under each armpit (and me hoping they wouldn't nip!). After getting through security, we would head straight to the bathroom and put the ferrets in their gym bag and, at the last possible minute, into the hard-backed carry-on.

Mom was on the 7:00 am flight Saturday, so about 5:30 am we drove to the airport. Tim came too, saying he "didn't want to miss out on the fun." We got there and I decided that I wanted to do a trial run through the metal detector sans ferrets to make sure I wasn't going to set off the alarm. So they all stayed in the truck and I went in and through the detector, no problem. I went back outside and "saddled up" with a squirming, wiggling ferret under each arm (keep in mind they were still babies at this time). In we went, me in the lead, my mom right behind with her gym bag and suitcase. Just as I was going through the metal detector, some guy ran up right behind me and we went through at the same time! Why he did that I have no idea but, of course, the detector went off! The security guard made us go back through and the one in charge of the x-ray machine told me to take off my coat and put it through the machine. Visions danced through my head of what would happen if I took off my coat, revealing the two wiggling net bags under my arms ("What are you staring at? Oh my God, my silicone implants have moved!" etc.). Whatever happened, the caper would be over and my mom ferret-less (and who knows what criminal penalty for the attempted smuggling of ferrets is?). But, knowing that it wasn't me who had set off the alarm, I said, "Why don't I just walk through again?" Without giving the guards a chance to react, I walked through the detector, the alarm mercifully silent. I then headed for the bathroom (meanwhile the jerk who had caused all this trouble was emptying all his pockets and removing his huge silver belt buckle). My mom came in and we put the ferrets inside the gym bag. When they called her flight, we put the gym bag with the ferrets into the other carry-on. The last sight I had of my mom was a gray-haired 64-year-old woman walking out onto the tarmac, a look of perfect innocence on her face.

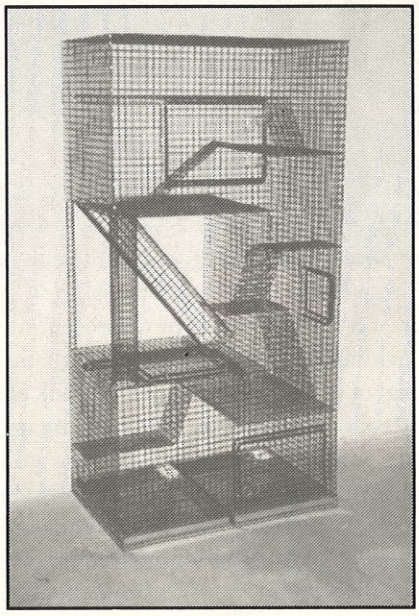
Tim and I then went home and anxiously awaited a phone call. My mom called five hours later — they had made it! She said the flights were fine,

Kustom Built ♥

Kritter Kages

Designed Especially For Ferrets

Built To Your Design Or Ours!
Call Today For A Free Brochure!
(517) 323-8936



Featured Here
The Kondo
72" tall x 36" wide x 24" Deep

The Ulitimate In Living Quarters:
· Numerous levels, ramps & tunnels for your pets enjoyment
· Twin litter pans

All Kages are built of plastic coated wire for easy cleaning and long, lasting, good looks. Plastic coated wire is also easier on your pet's feet.

From Karrying Cages To King Size Apartment Communities... We Can Build One For You!

We also carry the only ferret litter pan that really works! References available upon request.
VISA MASTERCARD AMEX
Shipping Available

except that the stewardess on the small commuter plane to Salt Lake City had demanded Mom put the hard-backed carry-on in the overhead compartment BEFORE Mom had gotten the ferrets out and safely under her seat. Mom told her that she needed to get something out of the bag first. Instead of going about her business, the stewardess hovered nearby while Mom did the transfer. Luckily, Mom had her heavy coat hiding the whole operation. She also pretended to have a cold, so her coughing helped cover the sound of the frantically scratching kits. The only other worrisome moments she had were when the kits almost escaped from the bag in the Salt Lake City airport bathroom as she gave them food and water, and the 11-year-old kid who went into near-uncontrollable hysterics as he observed Mom's carry-on bag moving back and forth under her seat (luckily, he didn't alert the stewardesses).

The two kits, Monti and Kilo, are now full-grown adults and are both fine. The caper was an experience for all of us, and one that I don't think any of us would want to repeat. Wouldn't it be easier if ferrets were legal in California?

Meg V. is from Florence, Montana. Modern Ferret *would like to thank Meg for sharing her and her mom's caper.*

Please note that ferrets are illegal in California. While Modern Ferret *neither condones nor recommends smuggling ferrets into the state, we do want to make readers aware of the lengths to which people are willing to go for their ferrets. If you are caught smuggling a ferret into California, you are subject to heavy fines and/or jail time, and your ferret is subject to confiscation and may even be euthanized. If you want to own a ferret in California, help get them legalized first. For more information about ferrets in California, contact the following organizations: Ferrets Anonymous (619-584-8427), Californians for Ferret Legalization (415-851-3750), and The California Domestic Ferret Association (415-917-0346).*

I WANT MY MODERN FERRET!

HELP US OUT!

If your favorite ferret supply store doesn't carry *Modern Ferret*, then there could be other ferret owners there who have never even heard of us! Horrors! Ah... but what can YOU do to change this situation? It's actually rather easy! Find out the person who owns, manages, runs, oversees, or whatever the store — THE BIG BOSS. Let the big boss know that there are a lot of ferret owners out there (not just you) and that it would be a good plan for the store to start carrying *Modern Ferret* Magazine. Ferret owners would travel from miles around to purchase this fine fuzzy literature. They'd spend lots of money. The big boss would look like a business genius. And he'd have you to thank. But the big boss says, "Is it easy for me to do this?" And that's when you say,

"Of course it's easy. Just call (toll free) 1-800-647-8295 and say, 'I want my Modern Ferret!'"

Finally, The Exotic Pets & Products You Want Most - One Weekend Only

MANY NEW EXHIBITS!

Meet Mary and Eric from Modern Ferret™ and their ferrets!

York, Pennsylvania

Memorial Hall at York Fairgrounds

November 1-2, 1997 - 9AM to 5PM

A wide variety of exotic pets to buy. Some you can't even find in pet shops! All in one place too! It's like going to an entire mall devoted just to pets and pet products. Exactly how cool is this? There are 50,000 square feet of pets, pets and more pets at the Exotics & Family Pet Showcase.

There are products galore. From big cages to leashes, pet papooses, pet toys, gifts, tee shirts, and magazines, books, figurines, and pet beds. (Can't list 'em all here - sorry.)

That's not all. You'll love the free lecture program which runs all day both days.

Bring the kids, too, 'cause there will be exhibits of tigers, eagles, and alligators for them to see.

Refreshments are available at the concessions. You can make a day of it. Shop 'til you drop, and get an eyeful of the most unusual animals you've seen since your last visit to the zoo. You and the kids are both "gonna" love it!

Ferrets • Exotic Birds
Snakes • Iguanas
Frogs • Other Reptiles
Greyhound Adoptions
And More (No Room To List All)

$1.00 OFF
ONE ADULT ADMISSION
Modern Ferret. **Duplicate This Ad** Modern Ferret.

EXOTICS & FAMILY PET SHOWCASE
November 1-2, 1997
9AM to 5PM
York, Pennsylvania
Memorial Hall at York Fairgrounds
Admission: $7 Adults $2 Kids 6-10 Little Kids Free
for friendly information (spectators & new exhibitors)

EXPO USA
372 Meadow Wood Lane • Souderton PA 18964
Phone: (215) 721-7199
24 hour FAX (215) 721-7979

The Dr Is In™

Seasonal Weight Gain and Loss

by Dr. Ned Horowitz, DVM

Fall is upon us, the leaves are changing, and so is your ferret. Fall is one of the two times of the year that ferrets normally change their weight, color, and coat. Most pet owners consider shedding to be a fairly normal occurrence in their furry friends. But the novice ferret owner often become concerned when he or she notices his or her ferret is gaining a lot of weight. Many owners don't realize that ferrets can lose or gain approximately 30% of their body weight with the change of season.

During normal shedding seasons — fall and spring — you will usually see some amount of weight change along with coat changes. The ferret's body determines the season based on the length of daylight. It does this through the pineal gland, which receives light-cycle information through specific optical (eye) nerves. The ferret's body prepares for the colder (shorter daylight) months by growing a thicker coat and adding fat for insulation. With the change in coat thickness, you may see some color changes, particularly in the shape and size of the mask. These are all normal changes. Your ferret can put on a noticeable amount of weight in preparation for winter. Likewise, in the spring (longer daylight), he will lose that extra weight and shed his winter coat.

How do you know what is normal and what is abnormal weight loss or gain? When do you need to see your veterinarian about your ferret's weight changes? Weight loss or gain occurring at the change of the season is normal in ferrets; but sudden weight changes accompanied by lethargy, loss of appetite, excessive hair loss (bald patches), flaking skin, vomiting, diarrhea, or nausea (pawing at the mouth) could be a sign of disease. If you notice these symptoms in your ferret, take him to your veterinarian as soon as possible. Remember that ferrets are small animals and weight loss or dehydration can become very serious within hours. You should also see your veterinarian if your ferret's weight gain is characterized by bulging areas, lumps, or a distended belly.

Weight gain not associated with a change in season can also be a sign that your ferret is not getting enough exercise. Although ferrets tend to regulate their caloric intake on their own, if you feed a lot of treats or your ferret does not get enough exercise, you could end up with an obese ferret. A ferret's weight can also change over time as he reaches old age; many ferrets maintain a lower weight as they age.

To help you recognize when there might be a problem, have your veterinarian weigh your ferret in ounces at every visit. This can help your veterinarian determine whether your ferret has gained or lost weight. It is also a good idea to assess your ferret's food intake periodically. You will notice that it varies with the seasons. If you notice he is eating more or less than usual, and it is not associated with the seasons, or you notice other symptoms, bring it to the attention of your veterinarian.

Farm ferrets (which are most commonly sold in pet stores) are bred all year round. Sometimes these ferrets' bodies get a little confused, and it may take a year or more before they are in sync with the seasons. You may notice a ferret kit bought in the winter putting on weight and growing a thick winter coat in the spring or summer months. The same ferret may inappropriately change its coat and weight the following winter. Keeping the ferret in a room lit by natural sunlight will eventually help his body adjust.

Finally, keep in mind that not all ferrets are the same size. Although the normal weight range for ferrets is between approximately 1.5 lbs and 3 lbs or more, ferrets who are outside this range can be normal and healthy too. Some ferrets are naturally larger and some are smaller. A small ferret is not necessarily a sick ferret; ferrets come in different sizes just like people do. The "correct" weight for a particular ferret can be determined by taking into account the ferret's overall health, skeletal size, and the presence and thickness of muscle on the bones. A fat ferret will look fat. The hip bones or rib cage of an underweight ferret might protrude. Also, an underweight ferret may appear to have a disproportionately large head and thin neck.

Being a keen observer of your ferret's normal weight and activity level as well as overall behavior will help you determine what is normal weight gain or loss associated with seasonal changes and what is the sign of an illness or obesity.

Dr. Ned Horowitz's practice is Massapequa Pet Vet in Massapequa, NY.

AccuPath

VETERINARY HISTOPATHOLOGY

EXPERIENCED IN DOMESTIC AND EXOTIC ANIMAL PATHOLOGY

BRUCE H. WILLIAMS, DVM
DIPLOMATE
AMERICAN COLLEGE OF VETERINARY PATHOLOGISTS

7605-F AIRPARK ROAD
GAITHERSBURG, MD 20879

(301) 299-8041

PROTECTING THE EARTH FROM THE SOCKS OF THE UNIVERSE

MR. ERMINE **MR. STOAT**

FERRETS ON BLACK

FERRETS IN

by Kiyoshi Nagike

WIDE WORLD OF FERRETS™

Presenting stories about ferrets from around the world!

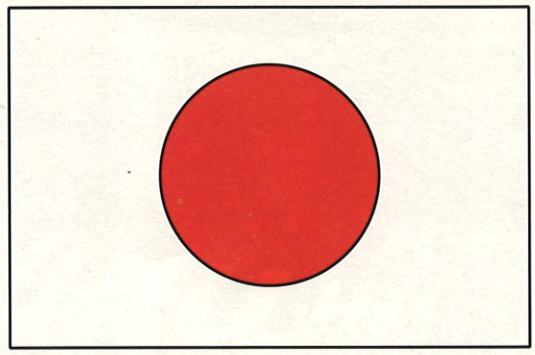
How sweet is the ferret! We Japanese are truly captivated by its beautiful features and charming vivacity. The ferret is a more-than-satisfying animal for one such as myself — a true dog lover who, during my college days, was unable to keep a dog. Ferrets are now my loving, indispensable family.

Kiyoshi Nagike with Kasumi

Kiyoshi Nagike is the caretaker of five wonderful balls of fur (Eco, Cosmo, Kasumi, Sean & Ginga) in Japan. He has had his photos of ferrets published in a number of Japanese wildlife magazines. You can write to Kiyoshi at: 2-18-15 Takamatu, Shizuoka-shi, Shizuoka-ken, Japan #422. Fax (054) 237-9109.

All photos by Kiyoshi Nagike.

JAPAN



You may find nothing new or previously unstated here concerning the charms of ferrets. Since their introduction to Japan several years ago, there has been a dramatic increase in the number of ferret owners. I don't know how to explain this, but it really is a tremendous number.

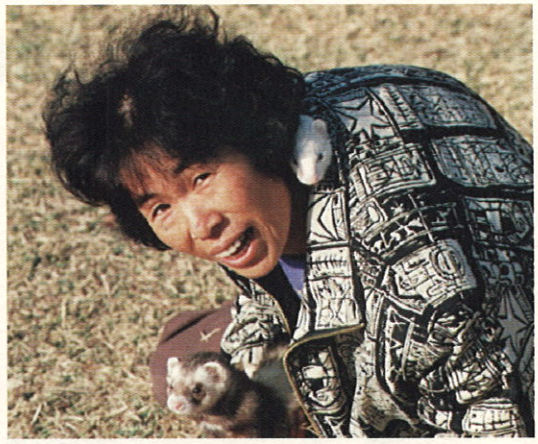
The most typical ferret owners in Japan are families whose members are under 40 years of age. They most commonly live in apartments where dogs and cats are not allowed. As is true of every country, dogs and cats in Japan are loved like family — they soothe our tired minds. I believe that almost all ferret owners like dogs and cats. It is sometimes impossible to own a dog or a cat because of lack of space or time — especially the time it takes to walk a dog. Among ferret owners, many are students living alone.

The ferret cannot be bought cheaply in Japan. It takes quite a while to save up to buy the first ferret; but it's amazing to see the enthusiasm for getting a second or third ferret.

Where I live in Japan we are seeing a pet boom. I don't know whether this is a creation of the mass media or if the mass media is reporting an actual phenomenon; but it's certain that there are many people easily influenced by the media who are jumping on the bandwagon. We have gone from a pet boom for reptiles such as snakes, alligators, frogs, lizards, and iguanas, to a craze for goldfish and mammals such as hamsters and prairie dogs. I think these booms can be seen as the manifestation of a person's eternal desire for a loving family.

Under these circumstances, ferrets were introduced to Japan. They are accepted, as I said, by dog and cat lovers unable to own dogs and cats, and they have become a part of their families. Needless to say, I believe American ferret owners are better acquainted with the ferret's charms than we Japanese. Their charms are never inferior to those of dogs and cats, but rather, they have many, even more endearing qualities. That is their great attraction.

Those qualities have infected, nay, captivated the Japanese, who held ferret festivals in 1995 and 1996. It seemed like 1,000 people attended each event, but the actual number is probably closer to 500. Those who gathered felt deep fellowship and keen enjoyment based on a mutual regard for the ferret. There were a number of booths where various rare, imported ferret-related goods and brand new products were shown.



But the event that most attracted my attention was the "earthenware pipe race" ("dokan race" in Japanese). Maybe this has already been seen in the United States. [Ed. Note: Tube races are common at ferret events here in the United States.] This is a race where ferrets compete running through transparent pipes. My darling Ginga, for example, froze in the middle of the pipe and refused to budge. We tilted the pipe, trying to slide him through, but to no avail. We finally had to stick our arms into both ends of the pipe and drag and push him through. The bigger ferrets like mine — Ginga weighed 1,800 grams (about 4 pounds) at the time — impeded the action. The

Photos from the ferret festival in Japan

Uncle Marc says:

Are you looking for that special COLOR ferret? Can't find enough ferret supplies in your pet store? Then call us at "Parrots of the World" — although we really should be called "Ferrets of the World." We handle over 100 ferrets per week, and if you are looking for a particular color we will be glad to set it aside for you. If you live out of state we can ship it to you. If you live out of the country, we can still ship it to you!

• Sable •

• Panda •

• Cinnamon •

• Black-eyed White •

• Blaze •

• Silver •

• Marked White •

Parrots of the World Ltd.

239 A Sunrise Highway
Rockville Centre, N.Y. 11570

Open 7 Days
We accept VISA, MC, AMEX

Totally Ferret Food Sold Here!

(718) 343-4141 FAX(516) 764-0125 (516) 764-0717

Q: How do you get a nifty *Modern Ferret* watch?

A: Write an article for *Modern Ferret*!

smaller, friskier ferrets were better suited to this event. Compared to those ferrets running through the pipes at lightning speeds, my Ginga looked like a turtle.

Since, as I explained, this *dokan* race highlights speed, we are now trying to create a competition whereby we see how long a ferret can keep hold of a certain area. We're calling it "sumo": if there are two players, it's like sumo; but if there are many, then it's more like the battle-royales of pro-wrestling. I won't go into the details of the rules, but we believe it will be fun to see ferrets trying to hold their ground against all comers. There are, of course, other, more traditional contests, but we are looking forward to including more enjoyable events like these.

Ferret lovers are also beginning to gather together in smaller circles. Although the number of ferret owners is on the rise, it doesn't necessarily follow that you will run into one in your neighborhood. It's still probable that they are few and far between.

Because ferrets require special medical attention, we also sometimes have trouble finding the right veterinarian. Sometimes the veterinarian makes a mistake, which can mean a huge headache for the owner. Also, for first-time ferret owners, there are many difficulties when it comes to caring for the ferrets. At one time, though the number of ferrets was increasing rapidly, even the pet shops couldn't provide enough knowledge because there were no owner's manuals. So we, the owners, were naturally forced to gather together to exchange information on proper care. This eventually led to the creation of several national circles [clubs] and local neighborhood gatherings. I myself helped organize one of the national circles. I also joined my local circle, and both of them have been great fun. At my local gatherings, we sometimes hold barbecue meetings [picnics].

I believe the ferret is here to stay. Ferrets have all the right qualities which have been lacking in other fashionable pets.

I really love ferrets. My family owns two dogs — one of which is a Labrador retriever — and they both get along splendidly with my five ferrets. On nice days, I take them for walks in the park or on off-season agricultural fields. Even if I take my ferrets off their leash while outdoors, they still follow me. It may be common in America, but I'm still very surprised to see this kind of thing.

Now, as I write, my Sean is sleeping with his chin on my foot. They have dog-like attitudes and cat-like moods. As each has his own wonderful expressions and ways of showing his sweetness, ferrets make great family members from any point of view. I am happy to have met such a wonderful creature.

As I mentioned before, new animals are always being introduced in Japan, but the boom soon ends, and it's difficult for the pet's popularity to take root. But I believe the ferret is here to stay. Ferrets have all the right qualities which have been lacking in other fashionable pets. The only sad aspect is they arrive in Japan already spayed or neutered. But even if we can't enjoy breeding them and raising babies, ferrets offer even greater happiness. The owner of a famous pet shop once said in an interview: "As for ferrets, if ten people buy them, we have ten satisfied customers. With just a certain amount of knowledge, you will handle and feed them with confidence. I am sure that any family would love them as an important member."

I am certain the number of ferrets in Japan will keep growing. Our challenge as ferret-loving colleagues is to fill in the missing pieces and find out everything about them that there is to know.

ADVERTISE IN MODERN FERRET
AND REACH FERRET OWNERS!
CALL (516) 799-1364 MAILBOX 3

New Hampshire Governor a Friend to Ferrets

New Hampshire Governor Jeanne Shaheen proclaimed June 12, 1997, a statewide "Ferret Appreciation Day." The proclamation, dated May 22, 1997, marked the two-year anniversary of the establishment of a quarantine period for properly vaccinated ferrets in New Hampshire. The state was the first in the nation to establish a statewide quarantine period for ferrets on June 12, 1995; ferret ownership was legalized in December 1992.

The proclamation states that ferrets are domesticated and calls for "... all the citizens of the state to take cognizance of this event and participate fittingly in this observance." The proclamation also shows that Governor Shaheen recognizes how important ferrets are to their owners: "WHEREAS, ferrets have earned and won a place in the hearts and minds of the citizens of New Hampshire by bringing them unlimited joy and happiness; ..." She also touches upon the responsibility to properly care for and train ferrets and the duty to fight abuse, neglect, and abandonment of ferrets.

Bethlehem, PA, Bans Ferrets

It is no longer legal to own a ferret in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania. A "Wild and Exotic Animal Ordinance" was passed by the Bethlehem City Council which bans various types of "wild" animals, including ferrets (ferrets are misclassified as a wild species in Pennsylvania).

The Morning Call, an area newspaper, published a letter from Bonnie S. Coyle, MD, Director of the Bethlehem Health Bureau, on June 26. In the letter, Dr. Coyle cites several reasons why she recommended that ferrets be included in this ban. Among other issues, Dr. Coyle refers to the issue of rabies control in ferrets and states: "While a vaccine is available, its effectiveness is questionable. ..." Statements like this are not uncommon from health departments throughout the United States. However, the vaccine to which Dr. Coyle refers, IMRAB-3 (Rhone-Merieux), is approved and licensed for use in ferrets by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA); it passed the same kind of approval procedures as dog and cat vaccines [see page 18 for more information about IMRAB-3]. Dr. Coyle also made references to "hundreds" of ferret attacks over the past "10 to 15 years," without citing specific numbers or time ranges and without creating a perspective (e.g., at least 20 persons are killed by dogs every year). This type of statement, too, is common among health departments throughout the country.

It is important for ferret owners to be aware that ferret ownership can be restricted not only by states or counties, but on a more local level as well.

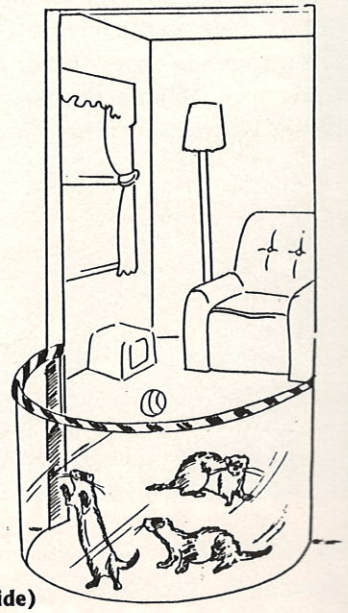
NEW! ALWAYS ASK FOR THE ORIGINAL Weezl Watchr™ FERRET RESTRAINT GATE Pat. Pend.

You'll Want Several — close off hazardous areas!

THE FIRST PERFECT FERRET GATE

100% of the Profits from the Sale of this Product Support Ferret Rescue of the Western States, Establ. 1991.

- Ready To Use....No "Installation"!
- Bends To Fit Almost Any Doorway.
- Spring Tension at Sides Hold Tight in Door Frame.
- Too Heavy for Ferrets to Lift or Go Under.
- Tough But Attractive See-Thru Polycarbonate.
- Ferrets Do Not Feel Confined.
- Easy To Reach Over/Step Over.
- Padded Top With Safety Strip Protects You.
- Keeps Your Ferrets Safe and Happy.



SEND CHECK OR MONEY ORDER PAYABLE TO: KINSEY ADVERTISING
140 W. 29TH ST., SUITE 191, PUEBLO, CO 81008-1016

NAME_____

ADDRESS_____
(WE CANNOT SHIP TO A POST OFFICE BOX)

CITY_____ STATE_____ ZIP_____

PHONE (____)_____ E-MAIL_____

MODEL	QUANTITY	PRICE EACH	SUB TOTAL
INTERIOR DOOR		$55. (2/$100.)	
EXTERIOR DOOR		$65. (2/$120.)	
Tax, Shipping Included!		TOTAL ENCLOSED	

AS SEEN IN "RALPH'S REVIEWS", MODERN FERRET ISSUE #11.

TWO MODELS AVAILABLE:
INTERIOR DOOR (Up To 32" Wide)
EXTERIOR DOOR (Up To 36" Wide)

We Do Custom Orders...Extra Tall and Extra Wide.

YOU MAY CONTACT US BY PHONE/E-MAIL: (719)527-8004
OR INTERNET ADDRESS: 103211.3070@COMPUSERVE.COM

SPECIAL ADVERTISING SECTION

Ferret Owners, Breeders, Ferretries
Register Your Ferrets with the US Ferret Registry!
ALL FERRETS WELCOME
LIFETIME REGISTRATION
ENHANCE THE FERRET'S IMAGE

Call 1-800-352-8752

ASK FOR THE FREE FERRET INFORMATION PACKET
US FERRET REGISTRY
PO Box 62, Bellmore, NY 11710

Ferret Cross Stitch Designs
I have four new designs and a web site for 1997. Go to http://www.netcom.com/~jbmorgan for up to date view of the new designs in color and a printable order form or send a Long SASE for a black and white brochure to:
Morgan Designs
3145 Craft Way, #5, Dept M
Westminster, CO
80030-5402

For a neat catalog of novelties for ferrets & their humans call:
FerretWare
at
800-FERRETWARE
and say:
"Modern Ferret Magazine told me to ask for a free catalog!"
It's that simple!
Don't forget to leave your name & address!

Why take your ferrets to an ordinary sitter? Bring them to Garth & Shania's Fantasy Funhouse. Where your ferret will get loving, periodical, out of cage, supervised play every day. Weekend stays are welcome. For reservations or info, call or write:

28 Pewter La.
Hicksville, NY 11801
(516) 731-4650

CHEWEASEL™ FERRET CHEW TOY
COMPLETELY SAFE. 100% EDIBLE.
Recommended by ferret veterinarian
DR. SUSAN A. BROWN

FOR A
FREE SAMPLE
(one per household)

send a SELF ADDRESSED STAMPED ENVELOPE to:

HYPER-FUR FERRETS' PRODUCTS
6820 Santa Monica Blvd. #123
Los Angeles, CA 90038

E-mail: hyperfur@artnet.net

Unique Art & Gifts for Ferret Lovers
at
www.petloves.com
portraits / notecards
sweats & tees / prints
PETLOVES
Artistic Products for Pet Lovers
E-Mail: info@petloves.com
Fax: 410-496-2020
For a full text brochure, send E-mail to:
products@petloves.com

Dr. Ned Horowitz
Massapequa Pet Vet
Animal Medicine & Surgery

Ferrets Welcome!

(516) 797-VETS (8387)

5404 Merrick Road
Massapequa, NY 11758

Have your business listed where ferret lovers will find it!

Modern Ferret's
special advertising section

Display boxes are
1 5/8" wide and 2" tall.

We will set type for you at no charge. No photos. Each ad costs only $35, payment due with your ad copy. For more information, call today:
(516) 799-1364 voicemail box 3
Advertising space is extremely limited, and *Modern Ferret* reserves the right to refuse any advertising it deems improper or unfit.

DOOK

DOOK

DOOK

FERRET PAWS RESCUE
Ferret Care and Training Info
Ferret Grooming and Boarding
Unique Ferret Gifts
Ferret Rescue

340 Logan Dr
Hatfield PA 19440
(215) 855-5167

Call or Write for Catalog

IN A FIRE OR OTHER EMERGENCY YOU PROTECT YOUR CHILDREN, **SO WHAT ABOUT YOUR BABIES!**
OUR
EMERGENCY FERRET LOCATOR™
CAN SPEAK FOR YOU WHEN YOU MAY NOT BE ABLE TO!!!
FREE BROCHURE, SEND LEGAL SIZE SELF ADDRESSED STAMPED ENVELOPE TO:
P.O. BOX 90471
BURTON, MI 48509

These boxes are only **$35** each.

See box above

Modern Ferret is available in more pet stores and book stores every day. You can help us out and your fellow ferret owners by encouraging your favorite store to carry more copies of *Modern Ferret*. That way more people will be able to find it. Thank you!

Marshmallow
(the ferret, not the dessert)
is now
on a T-shirt!

To wear him proudly, see the ad on page 59!

Get the back issues before they're gone! See page 59 for details!

Subscribe to *Modern Ferret*

Part of your money goes towards feeding Ralph a steady supply of his favorite treats!

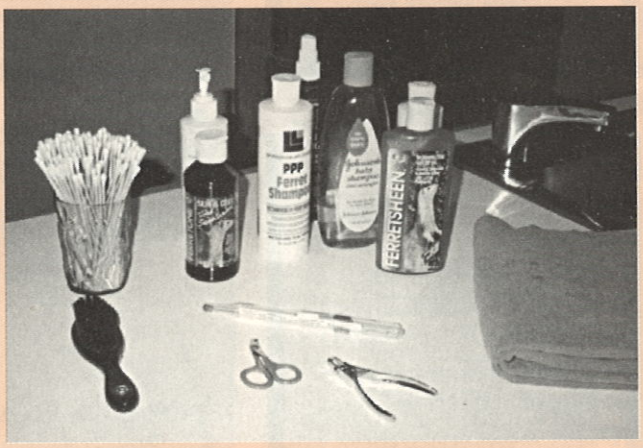
Special savings deal!
Now only $19.95
for six issues!

SEE THE BACK INSIDE COVER FOR DETAILS!

BATH TIME!

by Holly Cyr **photos by Andy Creta**

When Mary asked me to write an article on bathing a ferret, my response was: "Sure, I can do that." What I was thinking was: "Anybody can give a bath to a ferret." For several weeks, I thought about how to write about something that is just as natural as breathing to me.



TOOLS OF THE TRADE

1. Towels (old ones will do, the ferrets don't care if they don't go with the decor)
2. Ferret-safe shampoo (baby shampoo will do also)
3. Candy thermometer (an inexpensive one will do, usually found in the dollar baskets on sale)
4. Cotton swabs
5. Nail clippers
6. Ferretone or Nutrical (or anything the ferret likes to lick)
7. Coat conditioning spray (optional)

I went to a Pet Expo recently where there was anything anyone could possibly want or need for their favorite pet. One of the big chain pet superstores was there. In their booth area some of their grooming staff were passing out coupons for grooming pets. As one of the women handed a coupon to me, I asked jokingly (or so I thought), "Do you groom ferrets?" She said, "Yes, we do." I then naturally had to ask how much they charged. She had all of my attention when she said $20. She was not kidding. They have several people who bring their ferrets in on a regular basis.

Wow! I quickly tried to figure how much I would be worth at $20 for each and every bath I have given to rescue ferrets as well as my own. There were not enough spaces on the display of my calculator.

I have been giving baths to someone or something for as long as I can remember. First my dolls, then my sister, brothers, the family pets, and now ferrets.

I want to make it clear that there is no one absolute right way to give a ferret a bath. The ferret will basically show you what his preference is. Some ferrets will be more than happy to jump into the shower with you while you take your morning shower. Others will fight you tooth and nail (literally).

Seriously, I have learned several things over the past few years. With 10 ferrets of our own and with a rescue room that is never empty, I have learned by trial and error. Once I applied the same principle of bathing children to ferrets, bath time became a lot easier.

First, gather up your supplies: Towels, ferret-safe shampoo (or baby shampoo), candy thermometer, cotton swabs, nail clippers, Ferretone or Nutrical (or anything the ferret likes to lick), and coat conditioning spray (optional).

Please don't ever bathe your ferrets more than once a week. No more than every 10 days is better. Ferrets' skin can become overly dry if you bathe them too frequently. I have found that my

Make sure the water is baby-bath warm (but not scalding) — about 105 degrees. Remember the ferret's body temperature is higher than yours. You can place the shampoo bottle in the water to help warm it up.

Starting at the head, be sure to wash the ferret all over, being careful around sensitive spots like the eyes. Work the lather in well. Support your ferret so he knows you're not going to dunk him. Remember this is an unusual situation for the ferret, so keep him reassured.

Rinse thoroughly with warm water to make sure you get all the shampoo out. Make sure the rinse water isn't too hot or too cold.

ferrets can go longer between baths if I change their bed linens every other day.

Bathing a couple of ferrets is more fun in the tub. With so many ferrets in our home, we have found that the double sinks in the kitchen work best.

Be sure the room is warm. The first thing I do is wash out the sink or tub thoroughly so that there is no soap scum or dirt left on the sink or tub surface. Then I fill the sink with warm water. This is where the candy thermometer comes in handy. Because a ferret's body temperature is 101° to 103°F — higher than our own — water that may seem too warm for us is almost just right for a ferret. I usually fill the sink with water that is approximately 105°F. This has made a big difference. I have found that the ferrets no longer struggle to get out because the water is too cold. At this point I usually put the bottle of shampoo in the water to warm it up (anyone who has been to the hair dresser and had cold liquid put on a warm, wet head will understand this step).

Because a ferret's skin and coat are oily, it is not enough just to dunk the ferret in the water. You must run your

Nail trimming is a very important part of your ferret's grooming routine. Distracting your ferret with a lickable treat makes nail trimming much easier. Placing a drop on a tabletop or on the ferret's belly is a great distraction method.

Hold your ferret's paw so you can see the nail clearly. Be careful not to cut the pink vein in the nail (the quick). Properly clipped nails will prevent your ferret from hurting himself or accidentally scratching you.

If you have a copy of *Modern Ferret* issue #2, you can refer to the nail clipping article on page 18.

After a bath is also a good time to clean your ferret's ears. The water and rubbing from the bathing helps bring up the ear wax.

Always be gentle when swabbing your ferret's ears. Make sure you do not push the wax deeper into the ear — use a scooping motion. Do not go any further into the ear canal than you can see.

Ferret ear wax can be very smelly, and ear wax buildup can harm your ferret or invite ear mites.

For more information on ear cleaning, refer to *Modern Ferret* issue #6, on page 30.

When you're done grooming your ferret, you should give him a big kiss! In fact, you should give your ferret big kisses all the time!

That's Holly Cyr in the picture above, demonstrating the proper kissing method. Leave no ferret unspoiled!

http://www.littlepaw.com

FROM LITTLEPAW PUBLISHING AND PRODUCTIONS!

Four Ferreteers Graphic Novel Now Only $10.00 While Supplies Last!!

SHOW EVERYONE YOUR A FERRET OWNER WITH ONE OF THESE BRIGHT, COLORFUL, EYECATCHING T-SHIRTS OR SWEATS!!,

T-SHIRTS - $15.00 SWEATSHIRTS - $22.00

AVAILABLE IN WHITE, GRAY AND NATURAL

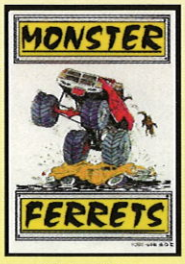
IN SIZES : CHILEREN - XS, S, M, L

ADULT - S, M, L, XL, 2X (2X ADD ADDITIONAL $3.00

YOUR HOME FOR YOUR ORIGINAL FERRET T-SHIRTS AND SWEATS!!

Style 26

Style 27



Style 6

Style 22

Style 5

Design printed on front and back of shirt!

ADD A CAPTION OF YOUR CHOICE AT NO ADDITIONAL COST!

CAPTION 9

Style 39

Style 42

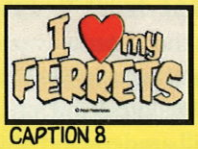
Style 18

Includes caption: Ferrets are like potato chips.... you can't have just one!

Style 28

Style 2

SEND FOR A FREE CATALOG!



CAPTION 8

CAPTION 7

Please send me ____ Graphic Novels at only $10.00 ea.

Qty____Size____Style____Adult/Child____T-Shirt/Sweat____Color____Caption____Total____

Qty____Size____Style____Adult/Child____T-Shirt/Sweat____Color____Caption____Total____

Qty____Size____Style____Adult/Child____T-Shirt/Sweat____Color____Caption____Total____

Qty____Size____Style____Adult/Child____T-Shirt/Sweat____Color____Caption____Total____

Phone: 908-832-0991/ Fax: 908-832-6302

SUBTOTAL____ + $3.00 S.H. = TOTAL____

Name
Address
City State Zip
Phone:

Make checks payable to:
LittlePaw Publishing and Production
P.O. Box 35
Califon, N.J. 07830

hands back and forth in the fur to be sure that the water gets to the skin and that the fur is thoroughly saturated. For the ferret's head, I always use Johnson's Baby Shampoo (I personally like the pink 2-in-1 detangler). Most of the ferret shampoos that I have come across say avoid eye contact or avoid eye area, although some are safe (read the label). Washing the head first will keep ANY fleas the ferret might have from running to the head to avoid drowning. After the head is washed, I then shampoo the body of the ferret. Be sure to wash the underside of the ferret, the area near his bottom (remember ferrets wipe their bottoms by dragging them after using the litter pan), and last but not least be sure to wash the tail. I scrub really hard at the end of the tail to help keep those dreaded black heads away.

Rinse, rinse, rinse. I cannot stress enough the importance of getting all the shampoo out of the ferret's fur and off his skin. Ferrets are itchy animals anyway, they don't need the aggravation of having left-over soap on their bodies. The best way to thoroughly rinse a ferret is to use running water (not dunking in clean water). I run the water, remembering to keep it warm, and start with the ferret's head. The ferret usually will shake his head as soon as you finish running water over it. Avoid running the water too forcefully since some ferrets are frightened by water running too hard. Run the water gently and introduce the ferret to the running water gradually.

Now that the fuzzy is rinsed and not looking so fuzzy, grab a towel. Wrap the ferret in the towel with his head sticking out and hold the towel around his neck. This is when I clean the ears. With the ferret's legs under the towel, he can't bring his paws up to keep you from reaching his ears.

The ears are the easiest to clean after a bath (just like a person's after a shower, they are nice and moist). Taking a cotton swab between your thumb and first two fingers, roll it back and forth, making a backwards "C" motion. While rolling the swab between your fingers, go into the ear gently. The nooks and crannies are already moist. The ear wax comes out easily. Do not put the swab into the ear canal any further than you can see. Cleaning ears is never pleasant for a ferret. By cleaning the ears at bath time you avoid using the cold ear washes that are available. (Would you want a cold cotton swab put into your nice warm ear?)

Nail clipping is easier now because, like us, the ferret's nails are softer after a bath. Also by doing the nails after the bath you avoid being scratched by freshly cut nails during bath time. I have never had success with the Ferretone on the belly method for clipping nails. It may have to do with the fact that I have no lap to put the ferret on. Depending on the ferret, what has worked well for us is this: I put a few drops of Ferretone on the counter. While the ferret stands there licking the Ferretone, I pick up one foot at a time and cut the nails. Some ferrets will not let you cut their nails any style. For those stubborn few, we scruff.

If you like to use a spray-on coat conditioner, now is the time to apply it to the ferret. You may want to spray it on your hands and then massage it into the ferret's coat, that way you avoid putting cold spray on your damp ferret. You could also put the conditioner in the warm bath water to warm it up like the shampoo. Putting the conditioner on your hands also helps you avoid the risk of getting any spray into the ferret's eyes. I spray it directly on the ferret, but I am very careful to keep it out of the ferret's face.

Now with the ferret totally clean, put him down on the floor with his bath towel and watch the fun begin. I love this part the most. Ferrets have their own way of drying off. Some people like to put a couple of dry towels in a clean, dry bathtub so the ferret cannot run under dusty furniture while he's still damp. I do not recommend using a hair dryer on a ferret; it can dry out their skin too much.

Now your ferret's bath time can be more pleasant for both of you.

Holly Cyr is President of the Ferret Association of Rhode Island (FARI). She and her husband Moe operate a shelter and have 10 ferrets of their own. Holly and her partner Karen Messinger of Ferret Madness designed and make the original Ferret Snuggly. Contact FARI or Ferret Madness at 181 Stony Lane, North Kingstown, RI 02852-3823, or call 401-294-6309.

What do you know?

As ferret owners, we learn from each other's experiences, mistakes, and successes. What better way to share your ferret experiences than through the pages of *Modern Ferret*? You don't have to be Hemingway or Shakespeare. You don't even need a typewriter (but it helps). Real ferret owners with real experiences can offer insights far more valuable than those of professional writers who've simply "read up" on ferrets. For example, if you've discovered a particularly successful way to litter train, nip train, travel, feed, walk, or do just about anything with your ferret, your ideas can help other ferret owners. Or if you've taken care of a ferret with handicaps or who had/has a terminal illness, sharing the things you and your ferret learned by trial and error can make it easier for another ferret owner to care for his or her ferret. It could even help you cope with the loss of a ferret.

Write it for *Modern Ferret!*

If your article is published in *Modern Ferret*, you will receive five copies of the magazine your article appears in, and a very limited-edition watch (we only produce enough watches for the issue's contributors). The face of the watch is the cover of the magazine in which your article appears. See the watch on page 40.

For more information, write or e-mail (no phone calls for initial contact, please) to:

Mary R. Shefferman, Editor
Modern Ferret Magazine
PO Box 338
Masssapequa Park NY 11762-0338

Send a self-addressed stamped envelope for editorial guidelines. Or, if you have an idea for an article, you can jot down your idea and we can work from there.

Modern Ferret.
For Ferret Owners. By Ferret Owners.™

Berret's Brother

a story by Dick Bossart

Berret was a happy ferret. He was warm, well cared for, clean, and healthy. He had lots of good food to eat whenever he got hungry. He had fresh water to drink whenever he got thirsty.

"Why, I even have the best toys in the whole world," he thought as he lazily reached over and squeaked his favorite squeaky toy. Of course Berret's world was only as large as his house, but to him that was very big.

Most of all, Berret loved and was loved by his favorite person in his whole world, a little girl named Melony. Melony had picked Berret at the local pet store, and as far as Berret was concerned, he had picked Melony over all of the other humans that had looked at him. He wasn't exactly the prettiest ferret. He was sort of gray. His head was almost all white, except for a gray "cap" on top and a funny white stripe down the middle, with a gray dot right in the center of the stripe. His feet looked like he was wearing white socks. Berret's eyes weren't quite like most other ferrets. While theirs were almost black, Berret's eyes were a deep red, that flashed like rubies whenever he got excited.

Melony and Berret got along just great from that first day. She was always the one making sure that his food and water dish were clean and full, and that his litter box was clean as well. She would always give him special treats too. Raisins were his all-time favorite.

Every morning Berret would hear her quiet footsteps coming down the stairs. He liked to run out and climb up on the couch, then just as she came around the corner he would launch himself at her, all four feet extended straight out from his body, mouth wide open. Melony called it the "famous flying ferret routine." She would catch him in mid-air and set him on the ground. Then they would play and play; Berret prancing and hopping, and eeeking and oooking. Melony would grab him and give him tummy rubs and wet tummy kisses which would send him off eeeking and oooking all over again. They would keep this up until Berret was so tired he could hardly stand up anymore. Then Berret would slip back into his hidey-hole for a nap, while Melony would go off to school or out to play.

That morning was just as wonderful as all of his other mornings, and after playtime he had gone to sleep under the couch, while Melony and her father had gone out together. But that was some time ago and Berret was just beginning to wake up ready to do some exploring. No matter how many times he had explored every nook and cranny of his house, he never missed a day in checking everything out all over again. Berret stretched and yawned; his nose scrinching up and his eyes squinting almost closed. Even his toes stretched and his tail arched and twitched. Just then he heard the front door open and Melony's footsteps in the front hall.

"Berret," Melony called. "Come here. Hurry. We have a surprise for you."

Berret didn't need any coaxing. He streaked through the living room. Slid across the kitchen floor. Sped around the corner as fast as his four little legs could carry him.

"A surprise," he thought. "I wonder what it could be this time? Maybe raisins, or a new toy, or, or..." Berret slid to an abrupt stop right in front of Melony who was kneeling on the floor cupping something in her hands.

"Oh boy, oh boy! It's a new squeaky toy! A new furry, squeaky toy!" He was so excited he could hardly stand it. Berret stood up on his hind legs to get a better look. Just then the "squeaky toy" moved and opened its eyes. He had never seen a toy do that before. Berret got closer and sniffed. The "toy" sniffed back.

"Oh no!" thought Berret. "It's a..."

"Berret, say hello to Bandit, your new brother." Melony was beaming, but Berret didn't notice.

Bandit was indeed a ferret. A baby ferret about eight weeks old; the same age as Berret was when he and Melony chose each other nearly a year ago. He was mostly light brown, with dark brown around his shoulders and down his legs. Bandit's face was brown and white, with a mask just beginning to show around his black eyes. The tips of all four feet were white too, just like Berret's. He had a white tip on his tail, and white

patches on his knees. All in all, Bandit was a very handsome ferret, not that Berret noticed though.

Berret was so stunned that he didn't move. "It's another ferret! Why would she want another ferret? We don't need another ferret."

Melony placed Bandit on the floor in front of Berret. They slowly circled one another, sniffing as they went. Suddenly Bandit made a playful leap at Berret. Berret moved swiftly aside and grabbed Bandit firmly by the back of the neck. Bandit let out a series of loud, shrill squeaks.

"Berret, you stop that right now!" Melony shouted pulling Bandit loose. "You be nice. He's only a baby. Why don't you get your toys and share them with Bandit?"

Berret looked up at Melony, then over at Bandit. With tail drooping, Berret slunk back to the hidey-hole and crawled inside. "Doesn't Melony love me anymore?" he wondered.

He stayed in his hidey-hole most of the afternoon, not even coming out to eat or drink. Berret could hear Melony playing and giggling with Bandit. He could hear Bandit exploring his dryer tube, eating out of his food dish, and getting into his toy box. Berret just lay there feeling worse and worse. Melony and Bandit sounded like they were having so much fun, just like he and she used to do.

Then Berret heard a scratching sound on the couch just near the entrance to his hidey-hole. He looked over just in time to see a black nose followed by a small furry body climb in. Berret was angry. This was his hidey-hole. But the worst was yet to come. Bandit grabbed Berret's favorite squeaky toy and started to run out with it. In a rage, Berret jumped at Bandit, grabbed him by the back of the neck and started to shake him.

Bandit didn't know what to do except squeal as loud as he could. Outside the couch, Melony screamed and ran over to the couch. With a great effort she turned it over and reached into Berret's hidey-hole, feeling inside for the squealing ferret. Her hand closed on Berret and she pulled him out; his teeth still holding Bandit.

"Berret, you let go of Bandit right now!" Melony shouted and pried Berret's jaws open. That hurt. Berret let go with a surprised look on his face. Melony reached over to console the trembling Bandit.

"Humph, she sure named him right. He tried to steal my toy! He did steal my Melony," thought Berret as he ran back to his hidey-hole.

Berret didn't sleep well all night. He really wasn't sure why. He could still feel where Melony opened his jaws. It didn't really hurt — at least physically — but it hurt deep down inside where loneliness and fear hid. He still had all of his favorite toys. He still had his hidey-hole. Berret did feel very empty inside, though. He was a little hungry and a little thirsty, but that was not what was making the empty feeling. He missed Melony. He remembered all of the good fun that they had together. He remembered the games they played and the tummy rubs and the wet tummy kisses. The more he remembered the fun they used to have the angrier he became at Bandit. "Why did Melony get him anyway? I bet if I left home she would really miss me. Then she'd see that I was really her favorite after all."

It was about then that Berret began to make his plans. "I'll show her."

The next morning, Berret was up before anyone. He slipped out from under the couch and crept over to the heavy bureau that sat in the hall, right next to the front door. He often ran under it to hide some of his toys or to eat a raisin where no one would bother him. This time he just quietly crept underneath and laid down to wait.

Sure enough, it wasn't long before he heard Melony's father getting out of bed and start to get ready to go to work. After a while Berret heard him open the closet and pull out his briefcase. Heavy footsteps soon echoed down the hall toward the front door and the bureau where Berret was hiding.

Berret watched the feet as they turned toward the door. He raised up ready to spring. As the big door opened, he slipped out from under the bureau and got behind the door. The screen door opened and while the big door was also open, Berret quickly slipped out behind Melony's father. This was the tricky part. If her father looked down now, he'd spot Berret, and Berret's plan would be ruined. He didn't. Berret stayed close behind the shoes. Close enough so that he wouldn't be caught in the closing doors but not so close as to get stepped on. In another second he was outside and hiding behind the bushes that grew along the front porch. Berret's heart was racing as he watched Melony's father open the garage door and eventually drive away.

He had made it! He was outside! "Now Melony will find out how much she really misses me!"

Staying out of sight in the bushes until he got to the edge of the house, Berret made a quick dash across the yard to the edge of the road. Here he paused just a moment to think about which way he wanted to go; then went straight ahead across the pavement.

Where the car came from, Berret had no idea. One moment nothing was there, the next moment a large car came roaring out of nowhere straight at him. He was so frightened he couldn't move and that was what probably saved his life. The tires roared inches from his nose, while the undercarriage of the car passed inches above his head, furiously ruffling his fur with its passage.

Seconds later, Berret was shaking on the side of the road again, not really sure how he got there.

The old tom-cat watched with fascination as the strange looking animal ran back to the side of the road after narrowly being missed by the car. The cat wasn't really hungry, but he was one of the best mousers in the neighborhood, and to him this looked sort of like a big mouse or maybe a small squirrel. Not that it mattered much what it was. He enjoyed the chase and the look of terror in the eyes of the prey just before he pounced for that final time. The cat couldn't really remember when he had last actually ate what he killed, it was the game that mattered.

The cat slid quietly off the porch and began stalking the unsuspecting ferret. Soft pads on moist grass gave nary a whisper of warning. Move. Stop. Move. Stop. Move, move, move. Crouch. Muscles tensing for the initial rush.

A dry oak leaf blowing across the yard was what first attracted Berret's attention. As his eyes followed the leaf, they caught the slight movement of the cat, now not more than five feet away. Berret had never seen a cat before. It looked somewhat like a big ferret wanting to play, and he sure did feel like a good romp right now after his close call with the car. Maybe this was a new friend.

Berret crouched down too. His white tipped tail gave a quick series of swishes, then Berret sprang toward the now confused cat — all four feet straight out, mouth wide open in his "famous flying ferret routine."

The big tom didn't take too long to decide that maybe this wasn't such a good idea after all. Although he didn't know just what it was flying toward him, it looked much larger with its mouth open like that and all of those teeth showing. Maybe even the biggest, fiercest animal he had ever seen. The cat was gone before Berret even hit the ground. Berret had never seen an animal move so fast.

Disappointed at the sudden departure of his new "friend," Berret sighed, then moved on. Maybe he'd find another friend. Besides, except for the cars, this being outside just might be fun.

Berret played a while with a discarded soft drink can he found in some weeds; chased some birds; tried to climb a tree but fell after he got just a little way up; found an old golf ball but couldn't quite manage to pick it up in his mouth; and dug more than a few holes as he wandered through the neighborhood. He was now getting a little tired, hungry and very thirsty. No matter where he looked, though, he could not find a food dish or a water bottle.

His thoughts wandered to Melony and his home from time to time. If the truth be known, lately his thoughts wandered there more frequently than Berret cared to admit. Melony was probably up by now and probably had been looking for him. He was sure that she was most likely worried, but somehow that thought didn't quite seem to offer the satisfaction that he thought it would. Berret sighed a deep ferret sigh and laid down under a bush. It was beginning to get hot and the lack of water and heat were adding to his weariness.

From somewhere far off, Berret heard the high-pitched sounds of children's voices at play. "Maybe that's where Melony is," he thought as he raised himself onto his tired legs and trotted off toward the sounds.

When he found the children, it was obvious that Melony was not with them. They were younger children; two boys and a girl playing in a sandbox. That looked like fun. He had a sandbox at home that he loved to dig in. Forgetting his weariness, Berret hopped over to see if they wanted to play, and maybe, just maybe they'd give him a drink of water.

The girl let out an ear-piercing shriek when she saw Berret. "A rat!! It's a rat!!" she screamed. The boys jumped up and looked to where she was pointing. The biggest jumped out of the sandbox, grabbed a nearby stone and threw it at Berret. Fortunately, the boy was young and lacked a good aim. The stone missed Berret. That galvanized the other two children into action. They grabbed stones and began to throw them too. One hit Berret painfully on the front leg; another just missed his head. Berret didn't know what to do. He had never before encountered humans who tried to hurt him.

The back door of the nearby house burst open. The girl's mother was reacting to her daughter's screaming. She quickly spotted Berret, grabbed a nearby shovel, and raced toward Berret. Berret could see that she meant to hit him. He turned to scamper off, his injured front leg slowing him significantly. He sensed the shovel descending and rolled sideways as it whistled through the air and thumped to the ground just where he had been a split second ago. That made him forget the pain and run all the faster, ducking around a tree and into the bushes. He didn't stop until he was a long distance from the sounds of the woman and still screaming children.

He lay on the grass panting heavily, his legs stretched out away from his body. The pain in his leg had returned, but it didn't hurt as badly. Mostly he felt very hot and very thirsty; very miserable and very lonely.

Berret got slowly to his feet and started to limp toward a patch of woods. It wasn't so much that he saw the large bird; more that he felt its presence diving at him from the sky. One moment he was limping; the next, he was rolling over for the

fourth or fifth time coming to rest against a rotten log. The bird's talons had brushed the hair on his ears, but failed to gain a grasp that would have meant almost certain death.

Now Berret was angry. He was angry at Melony. He was angry at the heat. He was angry at his thirst and weariness. In spite of the pain in his leg he war-danced in the dry leaves; the sharp crackling of the leaves a counterpoint to his own frustrated hissing. "It's all Bandit's fault. If he hadn't come here, I'd still be happy. If it weren't for him, why I'd . . ."

Berret stopped in mid-jump. "Bandit really didn't ask to come live with me. He didn't really do anything to me. All right, he did try to jump on me, but maybe he just wanted to play. He did try to take my squeaky toy, but he is just a baby and probably doesn't know any better. Besides he really doesn't have any squeaky toys or even a hidey-hole of his own."

The more Berret thought, the sadder he felt. "How could I have been so mean?" he thought as he settled into a fitful sleep under some bushes, not even knowing where he or home was.

It was several hours later that Berret awoke somewhat sore and very thirsty. The sun was not quite as high in the sky as it had been when he had gone to sleep, but the air still felt hot. He had to find water soon or he would be in real trouble. The only place where he knew there was water was in a house, but after that last experience he was rather fearful of strange people. However, it didn't take long in that heat before thirst overcame that fear, and off he went to find a house and some water. Even at that he passed by several houses before he finally decided which one to approach.

Berret smelled the smell of some sort of animal. It wasn't his almost-friend the cat that he had almost met earlier. It certainly wasn't another ferret. Perhaps the home of someone who had other animals would be friendly to a lost and lonely ferret too.

He climbed up on the low wooden deck that jutted off the back porch and sniffed again. Yes, this is where the animal, whatever it was, lived. The odor was much stronger here.

The door to the house was metal and screen, but the screen was so high that Berret couldn't reach it no matter how high he stretched. He scratched lightly on the metal. There was no response from inside the house, although he could hear sounds of people from inside. He dug at the metal harder and faster making a "scritch, scritch, scritch, scritch" sound.

The screen door exploded outward, knocking Berret backward nearly to the edge of the deck. When he scrambled to his feet again, there

FerretWare™

Unique Novelties for Ferret Loving Humans

"Where Ferrets Come First"

Large selection of supplies and accessories...
tested and approved by dozens of ferrets!

Only the finest educational materials:
FURO publications • *The Pet Ferret Owner's Manual*
A Practical Guide to Ferret Care (Second Edition)

Novelties for ferret-loving humans:
Calendars • Clothing • Mugs • Jewelry • Christmas ornaments
Custom knit sweaters • Tableware • Figurines • Cards
Bumper stickers • Suncatchers • Artwork
OVER 50 EXCLUSIVE ITEMS FOUND NOWHERE ELSE!

Active in ferret causes:
Proud sponsor of the California Domestic Ferret Association (CDFA), the only licensed rescue agency in California. Proceeds from FerretWare sales benefit CDFA rescue and educational programs. We also provide general information, medical advice, veterinary referrals, and referrals to other clubs and shelters.

Call or write today for more information! • FREE Mini Catalog
$2.00 for Full 20-page Catalog ($6 U.S. outside the United States)

FOOD • HYGIENE • GROOMING • TOYS • ACCESSORIES • STATUES • STONEWARE • HUMAN CLOTHING & JEWELRY

1-800-FERRETWARE

ORDERS ONLY • For Information & Advice, please call 1-415-917-0346

VISA MasterCard **ORDER BY MAIL:** P.O. Box 1991 • Los Altos, CA 94023
VISIT OUR WEB SITE: http://www.ferretware.com/ AMERICAN EXPRESS Card DISCOVER NOVUS

was the biggest dog he had ever seen, eyes just fixing on the frightened, stunned ferret. The dog made a deep, menacing growl and lunged at Berret. Berret jumped backward in fright, falling off the deck. Snapping teeth and hot breath followed as Berret scrambled underneath.

Berret spun around to defend himself from sure death, but all he could see of the dog was the black nose and white teeth trying to get to him through a opening that was much too small for a monster that size. Berret retreated to the far end of the deck as the dog alternately barked and growled, digging the opening bigger, determined that this small trespasser would not get away. Berret, however was already quietly slipping through another opening, then scampering away for all he was worth.

"That was a close one," he thought even before he stopped under the safety of another, bigger porch at the house next door. Adding to his weariness, his hunger, and his thirst was real fear, but through that fear finally came the realization that for the first time since he left home that morning, something seemed familiar. He caught the faint scent of things he remembered; most of all was the scent of Melony.

Berret crawled cautiously out from under the porch, found the steps leading up to a wooden deck. Attached to the deck was a large screened-in porch, just like the one he used to play on. He ran over to the screen and looked in. There, on the porch was a sandbox just like the one he used to dig in, and there was a big plastic ball just like the one he used to ride in.

It smelled like his home.

It looked like his home.

It was his home. He had found his home again, and as tired as he was he managed a happy ferret dance right there and then.

Berret tried scratching on the door. He could hear the sound of a vacuum cleaner running deep within the house. He tried scratching on the screen. The vacuum cleaner kept whirring. They couldn't hear him. Berret was desperate for a drink of water. He began to dig furiously at the screen. Bit by bit the wire began to tear. Bit by bit the opening grew bigger and bigger. He kept pausing to test the size of the hole. First, only his nose fit, then his head almost up to his ears.

Now, he began to use his teeth to pull the wire apart. "Almost. Just a little more." He heard a thundering across the wood of the deck directly behind him. A thunder accompanied by a loud throaty growl. The dog had found Berret again and he wasn't going to let him get away this time.

Berret threw everything he had into pushing his way through that hole. His rear legs hung just a moment on the wires. The dog's teeth clamped on the hairs at the end of his tail as it too finally slipped through the new, barely Berret-sized hole. Berret spun around and was knocked backwards; only this time with a loud crash as the dog plunged through the screen like it wasn't even there.

Berret arched his back as he slowly backed away. The dog, teeth bared, saliva dripping from the corner of its mouth, and growling menacingly advanced just as slowly; eyes shifting to follow Berret's every move.

Berret felt the corner of the porch press against his tail, and he knew he could back no farther. The dog weighed nearly 100 pounds. Berret, a mere three. Berret hissed and tried to sound fierce, but he knew that wouldn't frighten this dog. Although he knew that he didn't stand a chance, he crouched ready to spring.

The dog, however, suddenly looked startled, and yelped in obvious pain. Berret was just as surprised, for there hanging by his teeth onto the dog's back paw was Bandit, shaking his head back and forth with a fierceness that would have been comical if the situation was not one of life and death.

With a quick shake of his leg, the dog sent Bandit sailing to smack hard into the porch post. He spun around to make sure that Bandit would not rejoin the fight.

That was all of the distraction Berret needed. All of the anger, all of the frustration, all of the pain turned to pure anger at seeing his baby brother being thrown by this animal who had dared to break into their house. Berret sprang like a mountain lion. If the dog had seen Berret flying at him, with eyes glowing bright red, the dog might have had second and even third thoughts about being there. The dog, however, never saw Berret.

Berret's leap carried him all of the way to the dog's massive head where Berret clamped his rear nails into the dogs ears, his front nails deep in the dog's muzzle along either side of those curling lips. Berret's teeth sank deeply into the dog's very sensitive nose.

With a yelp that shook the porch, the dog gave a violent shake, dislodging Berret along with a Berret mouth-sized chunk of his nose. The next sound was a loud crash as the dog bounded, tail between his legs, back through the hole in the screen,

ANIMALS ALIVE LTD
THE DISCOUNT PET SHOP
N.Y. STATE LICENSED FERRET DEALER
1926 WANTAGH AVENUE
WANTAGH, N.Y. 11793
OPEN 7 DAYS
MON-FRI TILL 8 PM
516 783-FISH
516 783-3474

off the deck and homeward.

"What on earth is going on out here?" said a very familiar and welcome voice. Melony rushed out from the house.

"Berret! Berret! Berret! Where have you been? I hunted everywhere for you all day and couldn't find you," she said as she scooped up Berret in her arms and hugged him tightly to her face.

"Melony, what was that noise out . . . ?" Melony's mother paused, mouth open as she saw the gaping hole in the porch screen.

Bandit came jumping up no worse for wear, Melony's mother picked him up. "I see you two have finally found Berret, but how in the world did this happen?" Then she saw the drops of blood leading across the floor, across the deck, and toward the neighbor's house.

"Oh no, not that dog again. I've asked them and asked them to keep that dog tied up when they let it out. One of these days it's going to kill someone. I wonder what frightened it off?"

"Maybe it was Berret?" asked Melony helpfully.

Her mother laughed. "I hardly think so. I can't imagine anything larger than a mouse being frightened of Berret. Could you?"

Melony shook her head and smiled. "No, I don't think so either."

"Come on. Let's get these guys inside until your father can fix the hole. We don't want them wandering the neighborhood. They get into enough trouble right here at home."

First, Berret drank his fill. Next, Berret ate until he was stuffed. Then he ran to his hidey-hole and grabbed his favorite squeaky toy.

Melony was sitting on the floor playing quietly with Bandit. Berret ran over to them and dropped the squeaky toy in front of Bandit. Bandit looked at the toy with a puzzled expression. Berret gently squeezed the toy and it let out a soft squeak. Bandit's eyes lit up and he pounced on the toy, which let out an even louder squeak. Bandit then proceeded to hop and jump and oook and eeek around the room in pure joy. Berret joined in. Soon they were rolling and hopping and jumping all over.

Melony giggled at the sight of the two frolicking ferrets. She soon joined in the play, tickling and rolling each as they bounced past; giving both tummy rubs and noisy tummy kisses. They had the best times of their lives.

Later, after all were so tired they could hardly stand up, Berret led Bandit to his hidey-hole and they curled up together. As Berret fell happily to sleep, a thought crossed his mind.

"Love must be something you can never run out of. As long as you are willing to give it, the more you have to give and the more you get in return."

The End

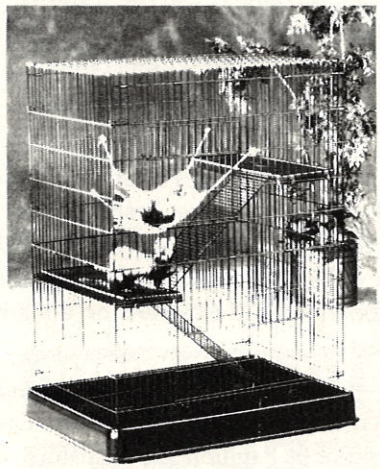
Dick Bossart operates The 4 Li'l Paws Ferret Shelter in Merrimack, New Hampshire. He has written several stories about Berret, who was a beloved ferret. He has also written a book about ferret care, The Ferret Owner's Manual, *which is available in the download library in America On Line's Small Mammals & Exotic Pets area as well as in printed form from the author. For more information, write to: Richard Bossart, 1 Blair Rd, Merrimack, NH 03054.*

"Berret's Brother," is Copyright © Richard Bossart. Reprinted with permission.

The story "Berret Finds a Home" was published in *Modern Ferret* issue #10, also with permission.

If you have a story about a ferret, let us know! See the box on page 47.

Ferret Playpen



includes everything that you and your ferret need for a comfortable living enviroment - at an affordable price!

Also, check out our great accessories:

- **Vitamins**
- **8 in 1 products**
- **Toys**
- **Ferret harnesses**
- **Shampoos**
- **Ferret t-shirt**

Congratulations to Kim Duncan. Last issues' winner of Reader Art.

★ For a FREE catalog ★

Send to:
Discount Master Animal Care
Humboldt Industrial Park
1 Maplewood Drive
Hazleton, Pa. 18201-9798

Yes! Please send me a free Discount Master Animal Care Catalog.

DISCOUNT MASTER

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Key: MF12

Ferret Events Calendar

This listing is updated as new/more complete information is received.

September

6 — Triangle Ferret Lovers (TriFL) Club of Raleigh/Durham/Chapel Hill, North Carolina, monthly meeting. Location: Luther Green Center, Morrisville, NC. For information: 919-231-3222 (Shari Gunter, Newsletter Editor) or TriFL, 4001 Cummings Circle, #1-B, Raleigh, NC 27613.

6 — Pennsylvania Ferret Association championship show, "Three Rivers Ferret Festival"; sanctioned by the American Ferret Association (AFA). Location: New Stanton Fire Hall, New Stanton, PA. For information: 412-861-8482 (Janice Moore) or 412-643-9494 or e-mail ferret@usaor.net (Gina Hart).

6 — Ferret Association of Connecticut (FACT) Ferret Fun Picnic (10am–4pm). Location: East Hartford Knights of Columbus Pavilion, East Hartford, CT. For information: 860-247-1275, press 6006 and leave your name, address & phone number.

16 — Lane Area Ferret Lovers second annual "Ferret Olympics." Location: Richardson Park, Eugene, OR. For information: 541-767-0786 (Beth Quigly)

20 — Baltimore Ferret Club (BFC) show, "Ferret Freedom Fiesta IV." Sanctioned by: Independent (BFC). Location: Annapolis, MD. For information: 410-448-1281.

27 — New Hampshire Ferret Owners Connection (NHFOC) 3rd Annual Ferret Awareness Day. Proceeds benefit NH ferret shelters. Location: Wasserman Park, Naticook Rd, Merrimack, NH. For information: 603-424-2539 or e-mail franlaru@aol.com (Fran L'Heureux, President). DUE TO AN EDITING ERROR, THIS WAS LISTED INCORRECTLY LAST ISSUE, PLEASE MAKE A NOTE OF THE DATE.

October

4 — Legion of Superferrets (LOS) National championship show, "Ferret Fiasco '97"; sanctioned by the League of Independent Ferret Enthusiasts (LIFE). Location: Croydon, PA. For information: 215-781-9044.

4 — Ferret Lovers' Club of Texas (FLC-TX) fun match, "Second Annual Ferret Olympics." Location: Grand Prairie Community Center, Grand Prairie, TX (Dallas–Ft. Worth area). For information: 817-498-1470 or Michael Runyon, Treasurer, FLC-TX, P.O. Box 286, Bedford, TX 76095-0286 or e-mail txlotrpt@flash.net.

12 — Ferret Association of Rhode Island (FARI) Frolic. Location: N. Kingstown, RI. For information: 401-294-6309 or FARI, 181 Stony Lane, North Kingstown, RI 02852-3823.

18 — Greater Chicago Ferret Association (GCFA) show, "The Greatest Ferret Show on Earth #9." Location: DuPage County Fairgrounds, Wheaton, IL. For information: 708-442-8650 or GCFA, P.O. Box 7093, Westchester, IL 60154-7093.

26 — Big Apple Ferrets, Ferret Marketplace and Education Day, "A Fun Ferret Fiesta." Location: Lindenhurst Fireman's Field Pavilion (indoor), Lindenhurst, Long Island, NY. For information: 212-388-8652.

November

1 — Susquehanna Valley Ferret Club (SVFC) show, "Fall Ferret Frolic '97." Location: Holiday Inn and Conference Center near Harrisburg, PA. For information: 717-939-0625 or e-mail svfcferret@aol.com (Beth).

1–2 — Vicki Clark's Exotics & Family Pet Showcase Exposition. Location: Memorial Hall at York Fairgrounds, York, PA. For information: 215-721-7199.

29–30 — Vicki Clark's Exotics & Family Pet Showcase Exposition. Location: Fort Washington Expo Center, Fort Washington, PA. For information: 215-721-7199.

December

13 — American Ferret Association (AFA) championship show, "Holiday Ferret Expo '97"; sanctioned by the AFA. Location: Frederick, MD. For information: 1-888-FERRET-1.

If your club is having a show or fun match, you must get the information to *Modern Ferret* as far in advance as possible. We can no longer list shows for which we have not received information. When submitting information for a show listing, please include the following:

1. Date. 2. Club/show sponsor (e.g., Anytown Ferret Club). 3. Show title, if any (e.g., "Ferret Show #1"). 4. Sanctioning body, if any (e.g., LIFE, NAFA, AFA). 5. Place of show (city, state, hall if known). 6. Contact (can be any or all: phone/fax/address/e-mail). These listings are FREE, so send in your information!

Remember — ferret shows are a great opportunity to meet experienced ferret owners and ask questions!

Note: Modern Ferret attempts to attend every show we can that is on the East Coast. Due to time spent on TV appearances and other publicity, we will be cutting back in 1997. We will make every effort to attend the shows that are listed in bold (barring unforeseen health problems, bad weather, etc.). We will attend other shows provided we have time.

SOCK IT TO ME!

SUBSCRIBE TO

modern FERRET™

Just mail this completed card along with payment

For foreign orders, please send inquiry

To:

Modern Ferret - Dept M12
PO Box 338
Massapequa Park NY 11762-0338

SOCK IT TO ME!

SUBSCRIBE TO

modern FERRET™

Just mail this completed card along with payment

For foreign orders, please send inquiry

To:

Modern Ferret - Dept M12
PO Box 338
Massapequa Park NY 11762-0338

SOCK IT TO ME!

SUBSCRIBE TO

modern FERRET™

Just mail this completed card along with payment

For foreign orders, please send inquiry

To:

Modern Ferret - Dept M12
PO Box 338
Massapequa Park NY 11762-0338

Modern FERRET™

Subscription and Order Card

Mail this card with check or money order payable to "Modern Ferret"

QTY	Price	Shipping	Description
	$19.95	included	**Six-issue USA subscription (approximately bi-monthly)**
	$29.95	included	Six-issue USA "plain wrapper" subscription (ships unmarked)
	$ 5.95	included	Back Issue - Modern Ferret #4
	$ 5.95	included	Back Issue - Modern Ferret #5
	$ 5.95	included	Back Issue - Modern Ferret #6
	$ 5.95	included	Back Issue - Modern Ferret #7
	$ 5.95	included	Back Issue - Modern Ferret #8
	$ 5.95	included	Back Issue - Modern Ferret #9
	$ 5.95	included	Back Issue - Modern Ferret #10
	$ 5.95	included	Back Issue - Modern Ferret #11
	$ 5.95	included	Back Issue - Modern Ferret #12 ****Bubbles Cover Version****
	$ 5.95	included	Back Issue - Modern Ferret #12 ****Pumpkin Cover Version****
	$15.95	included	Book: *The Ferret: An Owner's Guide to a Happy Healthy Pet* written by Mary R. Shefferman. Check the box to have Mary sign your book ☐ *please have Mary sign my book!*
	$19.95	included	Special Two Posters Offer - both the "What's Your Color?" 24"by36" ferret colors poster and the "I told you they grow in cans!" 20"by30" poster
	$14.95	included	Marshmallow on a T-Shirt - "Ferrets are the one pet to have when you're having more than one!" Please circle size: Adult Large Adult XL Adult XXL
$			**Total Enclosed** check or money order to "Modern Ferret"

(PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY)

OPTIONAL
Phone # for questions _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Plain Wrapper subscriptions are offered for those who live in pet-free apartments, where ferrets are not legal, etc. They ship in an opaque envelope with "MFM" as the return address.

NY State residents please add applicable sales tax for product orders (books, T-shirts, posters). Please allow 4-8 weeks for delivery. For subscriptions, please note that it takes from 2 to 2 1/2 months per issue so it may take some time before your subscription starts. Since this card is from #12, if you use it to subscribe, your subscription will start with #13 or the current future issue. Not all areas get rapid US mail delivery. Foreign orders, please send inquiry. Thank you.

Modern FERRET™

Subscription and Order Card

Mail this card with check or money order payable to "Modern Ferret"

QTY	Price	Shipping	Description
	$19.95	included	**Six-issue USA subscription (approximately bi-monthly)**
	$29.95	included	Six-issue USA "plain wrapper" subscription (ships unmarked)
	$ 5.95	included	Back Issue - Modern Ferret #4
	$ 5.95	included	Back Issue - Modern Ferret #5
	$ 5.95	included	Back Issue - Modern Ferret #6
	$ 5.95	included	Back Issue - Modern Ferret #7
	$ 5.95	included	Back Issue - Modern Ferret #8
	$ 5.95	included	Back Issue - Modern Ferret #9
	$ 5.95	included	Back Issue - Modern Ferret #10
	$ 5.95	included	Back Issue - Modern Ferret #11
	$ 5.95	included	Back Issue - Modern Ferret #12 ****Bubbles Cover Version****
	$ 5.95	included	Back Issue - Modern Ferret #12 ****Pumpkin Cover Version****
	$15.95	included	Book: *The Ferret: An Owner's Guide to a Happy Healthy Pet* written by Mary R. Shefferman. Check the box to have Mary sign your book ☐ *please have Mary sign my book!*
	$19.95	included	Special Two Posters Offer - both the "What's Your Color?" 24"by36" ferret colors poster and the "I told you they grow in cans!" 20"by30" poster
	$14.95	included	Marshmallow on a T-Shirt - "Ferrets are the one pet to have when you're having more than one!" Please circle size: Adult Large Adult XL Adult XXL
$			**Total Enclosed** check or money order to "Modern Ferret"

(PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY)

OPTIONAL
Phone # for questions _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Plain Wrapper subscriptions are offered for those who live in pet-free apartments, where ferrets are not legal, etc. They ship in an opaque envelope with "MFM" as the return address.

NY State residents please add applicable sales tax for product orders (books, T-shirts, posters). Please allow 4-8 weeks for delivery. For subscriptions, please note that it takes from 2 to 2 1/2 months per issue so it may take some time before your subscription starts. Since this card is from #12, if you use it to subscribe, your subscription will start with #13 or the current future issue. Not all areas get rapid US mail delivery. Foreign orders, please send inquiry. Thank you.

Modern FERRET™

Subscription and Order Card

Mail this card with check or money order payable to "Modern Ferret"

QTY	Price	Shipping	Description
	$19.95	included	**Six-issue USA subscription (approximately bi-monthly)**
	$29.95	included	Six-issue USA "plain wrapper" subscription (ships unmarked)
	$ 5.95	included	Back Issue - Modern Ferret #4
	$ 5.95	included	Back Issue - Modern Ferret #5
	$ 5.95	included	Back Issue - Modern Ferret #6
	$ 5.95	included	Back Issue - Modern Ferret #7
	$ 5.95	included	Back Issue - Modern Ferret #8
	$ 5.95	included	Back Issue - Modern Ferret #9
	$ 5.95	included	Back Issue - Modern Ferret #10
	$ 5.95	included	Back Issue - Modern Ferret #11
	$ 5.95	included	Back Issue - Modern Ferret #12 ****Bubbles Cover Version****
	$ 5.95	included	Back Issue - Modern Ferret #12 ****Pumpkin Cover Version****
	$15.95	included	Book: *The Ferret: An Owner's Guide to a Happy Healthy Pet* written by Mary R. Shefferman. Check the box to have Mary sign your book ☐ *please have Mary sign my book!*
	$19.95	included	Special Two Posters Offer - both the "What's Your Color?" 24"by36" ferret colors poster and the "I told you they grow in cans!" 20"by30" poster
	$14.95	included	Marshmallow on a T-Shirt - "Ferrets are the one pet to have when you're having more than one!" Please circle size: Adult Large Adult XL Adult XXL
$			**Total Enclosed** check or money order to "Modern Ferret"

(PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY)

OPTIONAL
Phone # for questions _____

Name _____

Address _____

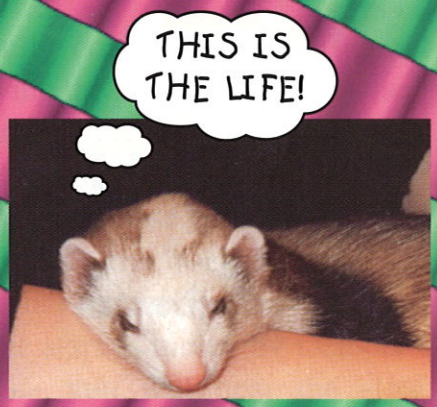
City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Plain Wrapper subscriptions are offered for those who live in pet-free apartments, where ferrets are not legal, etc. They ship in an opaque envelope with "MFM" as the return address.

NY State residents please add applicable sales tax for product orders (books, T-shirts, posters). Please allow 4-8 weeks for delivery. For subscriptions, please note that it takes from 2 to 2 1/2 months per issue so it may take some time before your subscription starts. Since this card is from #12, if you use it to subscribe, your subscription will start with #13 or the current future issue. Not all areas get rapid US mail delivery. Foreign orders, please send inquiry. Thank you.

Ralph's Reviews IN COLOR

featuring: RALPH THE INSPECTOR



The Chewease — Ferret Chew Toy
Hyper-Fur Ferrets' Products
6820 Santa Monica Blvd. #123
Los Angeles, CA 90038
e-mail: hyperfur@artnet.net

If you have a ferret that likes to chew (everybody's got one), now you have something safe to offer him — the Chewease. It has a rubbery type of consistency that ferrets love and it is 100% edible. If your ferret swallows a piece of it, it will not cause an intestinal blockage because it melts quickly in the stomach. The Chewease is a protein-based toy that is made of human-grade food materials with no sugar, no artificial colors, and no preservatives. The Chewease gives ferrets an appropriate way to satisfy their need to chew. Chewease is highly recommended by renowned ferret veterinarian and ferret owner Susan Brown, DVM. You can get a sample Chewease by sending a self-addressed stamped envelope to Hyper-Fur.

Ralph's Review: "I haven't had this much fun chewing stuff since they made me stop biting Sabrina on the ear!"

"Who Me?" Suncatcher
by Sunburst Designs
available exclusively through
FerretWare
P.O. Box 1991
Los Altos, CA 94023
1-800-FERRETWare (orders only)

Who can resist the mischievous innocence of a ferret? This hand-painted suncatcher captures the "I-didn't-do-it" look of a ferret that did it. Just look at the flower by the ferret's paw. The "Who Me?" Suncatcher is painted in fade-resistant colors on imported English Cathedral Glass and is made in the United States. Ask FerretWare about the "Treats!" Suncatcher, too. Suncatchers are 5" by 7" and come with a suction cup hanger. Proceeds from FerretWare sales benefit the California Domestic Ferret Association (CDFA) rescue and educational programs.

Ralph's Review: "Mom says this is a 'people' toy — but how can it be a toy if you don't hide it behind the couch?"

You saw it here in Modern Ferret!

a Ferretted Fairy-Tail™

THE TREATLESS HUMAN

by Mary R. Shefferman

A group of seven young ferret kits sat around a large dish filled with treats. It was an October evening, nearing Halloween, and the room was becoming duskier as the sun slowly slipped into the west. The ferret kits, ranging in age from only two and a half months to six months, were amusing themselves with tales to make each other's little hearts pound with excitement and fear. Bud, the largest of the ferrets had just finished his tale, which did not have quite the impact he was hoping for. His wrestling buddy, Thor, was actually sniggering. Bud nipped at Thor's ear, which led to a small tussle.

Pipsqueak, the tiniest and youngest of the ferrets, started to dance and chitter to get the attention of the others in the group. "Hey, I've got a story that'll make your fur stand on-end!" he shouted.

Thor chuckled, "Ooooh! We're shaking in our paws, Squeaker." Pipsqueak rarely got any respect from the other kits. He wasn't much of a wrestler. The last time he went to the mat with Thor he had cried so loudly his dam had to come in and break it up. But storytelling was an area where Pipsqueak could hold his own. When the other ferrets finally settled down, Pipsqueak began his tale...

In a town, just like ours, which lolled in the shadows of a great mountain, there was a legend that was so foul and terrifying that the townsferrets rarely spoke of it. The oldest ferrets claimed it was a true story, but most of the younger inhabitants did not believe. But in the still chill of autumn midnights some claimed to hear the footsteps of the gruesome creature known only as The Treatless Human.

The story goes like this: Long, long ago a human was on his way into the town. While crossing a rocky-bottomed brook just on the outskirts, he lost his footing and tumbled into the water. All of his belongings, including his knapsack laden with treats of every imaginable flavor and texture, were strewn about in the water and on the craggy banks of the brook. The knapsack was never seen again. The elder ferrets say that the human believed that ferrets had come and stolen his knapsack while he was struggling to get up from his fall. He spent the rest of his life searching for the ferrets who left him treatless. The legend says that the human yet

haunts the shadowy valley in search of the treat-stealing ferrets. Once he finds them, there's no telling what horrors he will lay upon his victims. But there have been incidents.

Most stories involve lone ferret kits wandering off at dusk in search of a sweet morsel. Some have returned home, disheveled and stuttering. Sometimes all they can say is: "T-t-t-treatless Hu-human," but never anything more. Others have not been so fortunate.

One ferret in particular was a bit of a bully; he was always teasing and wrestling down ferrets much smaller than he. One day while he and his friends were on their way home for dinner, the bully lagged behind. He wanted to play a practical joke on his friends. But he lingered too long, and night fell before he could catch up with the rest of the group. The next day they found neither hide nor hair of the bully — but a partially chewed raisin was found along the path the kits had been walking when they last saw him. Most ferrets believe that the Treatless Human saw the bully eating the raisin and chased him all the way up the mountain because he thought the raisin was from his long-lost knapsack. Before the bully could explain, the ghoul vanished, leaving the poor bully alone where he could never find his way home again.

Many ferrets shake their noses in disbelief when the legend and these tales are told. But you need only to listen closely after the sun has set on a night where the moon is new and the glow of the stars is muted by October's chill clouds — you will hear the slow, deliberate footsteps of the human who would keep all ferrets from the sweet flavors they long for ... the human who would scruff the nape of every ferret he encounters and say the most dreaded, evil word: NO ... The Treatless Human!

Pipsqueak sat up on his hind legs and raised his front paws up as high as he could as he bellowed the final words of his tale. Thor and Bud clung to each other and shrieked with terror. The other kits all gasped with fright.

As each one made excuses for getting home before the last rays of the October day were gone, Pipsqueak smiled and popped a raisin in his mouth.

The End

NeatO! Stuff

TRUST RALPH

The Ferret: An Owner's Guide to a Happy Healthy Pet
5 1/2" by 8 1/2" Hardcover!
126 colorful pages of up-to-date ferret info!
Written by Mary R. Shefferman
Editor in Chief of Modern Ferret
Signed by Mary if you request it!
$12.95 each + $3.00 shipping

Modern Ferret Back Issues
Get them while you still can!
Great reading and care info in every issue!
Issues #1, 2, and 3 are SOLD OUT
Issues #4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, and 11 are still available and both versions of Issue #12
$4.95 each + $1.00 shipping

#4

#5

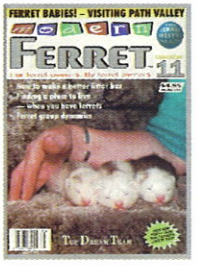
#6

#7

#8

#9

#10



#11

What's Your Color?
24" by 36" full color poster featuring illustrations and descriptions of the most common ferret colorings.

I told you they grow in cans!
20" by 30" full color poster featuring Sabrina and Bandette discovering a can of raisins!

SALE! Get BOTH for a SPECIAL PRICE!
$15.95 + $4.00 shipping

The classy T-Shirt you've been waiting for!

100% Cotton

You'll look cool! No matter how many ferrets you have!

Adult sizes L, XL, XXL

Marshmallow Explains: Ferrets are the one pet to have when you're having more than one!™

$12.95 each plus $2.00 shipping!

Eric holding Bosco & Marshmallow

Don't forget Issue #12 has two different cover versions!

- *All orders ship via US mail*
- *Please allow 4 to 8 weeks for delivery*
- *Your check must clear before we can ship your order*
- *Sorry - we cannot accept credit cards and cannot process COD orders or phone orders*
- *Make checks or money orders payable to either "Modern Ferret" or "Crunchy Concepts Inc"*
- *If your order requires "No ferret markings," please let us know — the return address will be Crunchy Concepts Inc or Mary Shefferman/MFM*
- *If you want your book signed by Mary, please remember to request it.*
- *International orders please send inquiry.*
- *NY state residents add applicable sales tax*

Use this coupon or write neatly on a separate piece of paper. PLEASE WRITE NEATLY!

Send check or money order to:

Modern Ferret
PO Box 338 Dept M12
Massapequa Park NY
11762-0338

Circle back issues desired
$5.95 each (includes shipping)

4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11

12 bubbles 12 pumpkin

___ book(s) at $15.95 each (includes shipping)
___ check here to have Mary sign your book for you

___ poster sets at $19.95 per set (includes shipping)

___ T-shirts at $14.95 each (includes shipping) check size:

___ Adult Large ___XL ___XXL

Name _____

Address _____

City, State _____

ZIP _____

(optional) phone # for questions _____

Total $ Enclosed: _____

FOUR PAWS® FERRET PRODUCTS

Quality products designed with your ferret in mind.

Your "Modern Ferret" deserves products designed specifically with the ferret in mind. Look no further than Four Paws® brand ferret products including:

Tender Touch® Ferret Brush

Ferret Glow® Dry Shampoo Powder

Ferret Deodorizing Spray

Ferret Glow® Shampoo and Deodorizer

Ferret Hammock

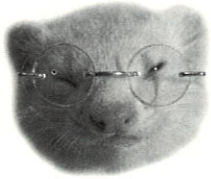
Ferret Play Tunnel

Ferret Coat™ Food Supplement

Four Paws® Products Ltd.
50 Wireless Blvd.
Hauppauge, N.Y. 11788
Tel: (516) 434-1100
Fax: (516) 434-1183
fourpaws.com

Four Paws® Products Ltd.

Modern Ferret...



The ONLY magazine with a Marshmallow topping!

Tastes great!

Printed in USA

Brought to you by: